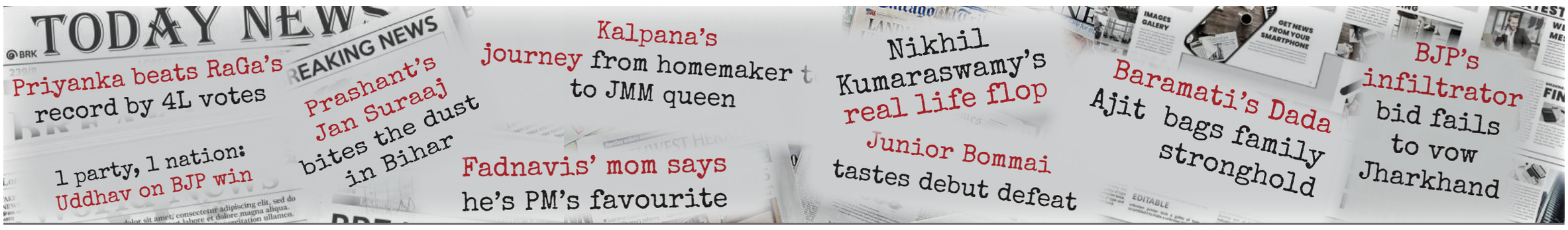
TODAY NEWS
Priyanka beats RaGa's record by 4L votes
1 party, 1 nation: Uddhav on BJP win
Prashant's Jan Suraaj bites the dust in Bihar
Kalpana's journey from homemaker t to JMM queen
Fadnavis' mom says he's PM's favourite
Nikhil Kumaraswamy's real life flop
Junior Bommai tastes debut defeat
Baramati's Dada Ajit bags family stronghold
BJP's infiltrator bid fails to vow Jharkhand

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SALAR

DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

ساڈھ روزنامہ بنگلور

Website: salarnews.in www.magzter.com 24 NOVEMBER 2024 | SUNDAY | BENGALURU | 21 JUMADA I, 1446 AH Vol 4 | Issue No 297| Pages: 8

SHIGGAON

WINNER	LOSER
YASIR AHMED KHAN PATHAN	BHARAT BASAVARAJ BOMMAI
PARTY: INC	PARTY: BJP

VOTE MARGIN 13,448

SANDUR (ST)

WINNER	LOSER
E ANNAPURNA	BANGARU HANUMANTU
PARTY: INC	PARTY: BJP

VOTE MARGIN 9,649

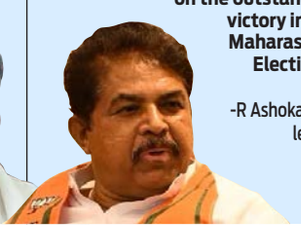
CHANNAPATNA

WINNER	LOSER
CP YOGEESHWARA	NIKHIL KUMARASWAMY
PARTY: INC	PARTY: JD(S)

VOTE MARGIN 25,413

> We won in the people's court. Mahatma Gandhi said people's court is better than the courts. Now people's court has given me its verdict
>
> -Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister

> Congress used money power to secure victories... Congratulations @BJP4Maharashtra on the outstanding victory in the Maharashtra Elections!
>
> -R Ashoka, BJP leader



AMID ROWS, CONG CRUSHES LOTUS IN 3 K'TAKA BYPOLLS

NAHEED ATAULLA
BENGALURU, 23 NOV

The results of bypolls to three Assembly constituencies in Karnataka which were announced on Saturday came as a major relief to the embattled ruling Congress. The party won all the seats, with National Democratic Alliance (NDA) comprising Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Janata Dal (Secular) biting the dust by losing all including two constituencies considered their bastions.

The verdict is a big shocker to BJP and JD(S), which had made the alleged corruption and appeasement politics of Congress government its plank in the bypolls. Both parties had claimed the results would be a referendum on the 18-month-old Siddaramaiah government, embroiled in alleged scams in Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation and alleged irregularities in the allotment of sites by Mysuru Urban Development Authority in which Siddaramaiah's wife BM Parvathi was a beneficiary. She has since returned the sites in question and an inquiry by Lokayukta is underway.

Congress won the high-profile constituency of Channapatna in Ramanagara district, Shiggaon in Haveri and Sandur in Ballari districts. The bypolls were a proxy battle fought by two former chief ministers HD Kumaraswamy, now Union minister, and Basavaraj Bommai, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, his brother former MP DK Suresh, Labour Minister Santosh Lad and Independent MLA, mining czar G Janardhan Reddy in their respective constituencies. The byelections were necessitated after Kumaraswamy, representing Channapatna, won from Mandya, Basavaraj from Shiggaon bagged Haveri and E Tukaram from Sandur was elected from Ballari in Lok Sabha elections early this year.

In the byelections, Congress wrested the Channapatna seat from JD(S) with party candidate CP Yogeeshwara trouncing Nikhil Kumaraswamy (son of Kumaraswamy) by a margin of 26,929 votes.

This was the third electoral defeat of Nikhil in a row after he lost Mandya seat in 2019 Lok Sabha polls and Ramanagara constituency in 2023 Assembly polls. Basavaraj had made Shiggaon constituency his bastion since 2008 and fielded his son Bharat Bommai on a BJP ticket this time.

Bharat, who was set to make his electoral debut, lost to Congress' Yasir Ahmed Khan Pathan by 13,446 votes. In Sandur, a reserved constituency that has been a Congress stronghold since 1957 with a break in 1985 and 2004, Tukaram's wife E Annapoorna defeated BJP's Bangaru Hanumanthu. *—Salar News*

Congress workers celebrate after the party's win all three Assembly byelections in Bengaluru on Saturday **PHOTO: PTI**

NDA buries MVA; INDIA keeps J'khand

NDA wins 235 seats as MVA puts up its worst performance with just 49; JMM is biggest winner in J'khand

BJP IS KING IN M'RASHTA

PARTY	WINS
Mahayuti	**235**
BJP	132
Shiv Sena	57
NCP	41
Jan Surajya Shakti	2
Others	3
Maha Vikas Aghadi	**49**
Shiv Sena (UBT)	20
INC	16
NCP(Sharad Pawar)	10
SP	2
CPI(M)	1
OTHERS	**4**

Total seats 288 | Majority mark 145

MUMBAI/RANCHI, 23 NOV

The BJP on Saturday pulled off a stunning performance in Maharashtra winning a record number of seats to propel the party-led ruling Mahayuti alliance to a landslide victory while the INDIA bloc stormed back to power in Jharkhand on the back of a spectacular showing by the JMM.

Such was the BJP's dominance that helped the Mahayuti alliance -- which includes the Shiv Sena faction of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and the NCP (Ajit Pawar) -- to get a three-fourths majority and continue the winning momentum after its recent historic hat-trick in Haryana.

"Maharashtra has broken all records, it is the biggest win for any party or pre-poll alliance in the last 50 years," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said. BJP's stellar showing comes months after it was written off in Maharashtra by some political pundits owing to its poor showing in the Lok Sabha polls.

This is the first assembly elections in Maharashtra since the split in Shiv Sena and NCP. Shiv Sena (Shinde) fought from 81 seats and the Ajit Pawar-led NCP in 59. Shiv Sena (UBT) chief and former chief minister Uddhav Thackeray called the "tsunami" results "completely unexpected".

Of the three Congress big guns in the state - Nana Patole, Balasaheb Thorat and Prithiviraj Chavan -Thorat and Chavan lost. The outcome could lead to a situation where the state Assembly might not even have a Leader of the Opposition. Congress continued its losing spree posting its worst-ever show in Maharashtra and ending up a distant junior partner to JMM in Jharkhand, further diminishing its role in the opposition bloc. In Jharkhand, the JMM-led alliance stormed back to power for the second consecutive term. At 49, Hemant Soren is Jharkhand's youngest chief minister with a turbulent but resilient political career. *—PTI*

>>>MORE ON PAGES 2,3 & 4

BJP celebrates in Nagpur on Saturday **PHOTO: PTI**

JHARKHAND CHOOSES SOREN

PARTY	WINS
INDIA	**56**
JMM	34
INC	16
RJD	4
CPI (ML) (L)	2
NDA	**24**
BJP	21
AJSUP	1
LJPRV	1
JD(U)	1
OTHERS	**1**

Total seats 81 | Majority mark 41

WILL BJP AWARD LOYALIST FADNAVIS WITH CM POST?

Former chief minister Devendra Fadnavis is emerging as a strong contender for the CM position in Maharashtra. BJP's win has positioned Fadnavis as a likely frontrunner for the top post. His stature within the party is reinforced by the support of several BJP leaders, who publicly stated that Fadnavis is their preferred leader. Currently, Fadnavis is DyCM. However, incumbent CM and shiv Sena Chief Eknath Shinde is also the top contender for the post

HEMANT SOREN TO BE J'KHAND CM AGAIN BEATING ALL ODDS

JMM chief Hemant Soren has emerged victorious in the Jharkhand assembly elections, securing 55 seats and is all set to reclaim his position as Chief Minister of the state. Despite facing imprisonment in money laundering case. He accused BJP of spending crores on online campaigns to defame him during the election period.

MAHARASHTRA

FATE OF HEAVYWEIGHTS

BIG WINNERS

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS
Party: BJP
Nagpur South West
Won by:
39,710

EKNATH SHINDE
Party: Shiv Sena
Kopri-Pachpakhadi
Won by:
1,20,717

AJIT PAWAR
Party: NCP
Baramati
Won by:
1,00,899

AADITYA THACKERY
Party: Sena (UBT)
Worli
Won by:
8,801

BIG LOSERS

MILIND DEORA
Party: BJP
Worli
Lost by:
8,801

YUGENDRA PAWAR
Party: NCPSP
Baramati
Lost by:
1,00,899

ZEESHAN SIDDIQUE
Party: NCP
Vandre East
Lost by:
11,365

BALASAHEB THORAT
Party: INC
Sangamner
Lost by:
10,560

BIG WINNERS

HEMANT SOREN
Party: JMM
Barhait
Won by:
39,791

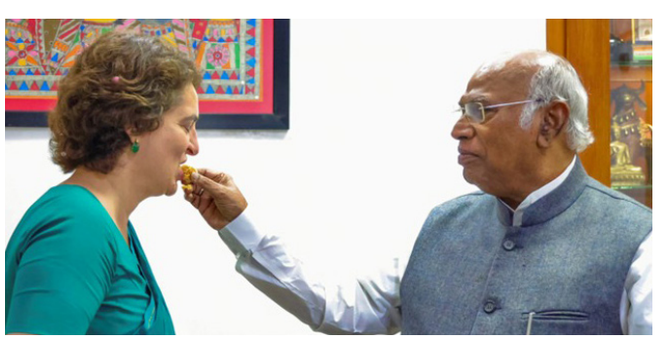
CHAMPAI SOREN
Party: BJP
Seraikela
Won by:
20,447

BIG LOSERS

SITA SOREN
Party: BJP
Jamtara
Lost by:
43676

GEETA KODA
Party: BJP
Jaganathpur
Lost by:
7,383

PRIYANKA OPENS 'MOHABBAT KI DUKAAN' IN WAYANAD



Priyanka Gandhi Vadra being offered sweets by Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, in New Delhi on Saturday **PHOTO: PTI**

WAYANAD, 23 NOV

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi has secured her first electoral win, triumphing in the Wayanad Lok Sabha by-election in Kerala with a margin of over 4,10,000 votes. She garnered 622,338 votes, surpassing CPI(M)-led LDF's Sathyan Mokeri, who received 211,407 votes. Despite receiving fewer votes than her brother Rahul Gandhi in the April elections, Priyanka's victory margin exceeded his, with a decline in voter turnout noted; April's turnout was approximately 74% compared to 65% in November.

PRIYANKA GANDHI
Party: INC Wayanad
Won by:
4,10,931

> My dearest sisters and brothers of Wayanad, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the trust you have placed in me. I will make sure that over time, you truly feel this victory has been your victory I look forward to being your voice in Parliament
>
> -Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, LS MP

Priyanka's victory comes as CPI's Annie Raja and BJP's K Surendran finished in second and third place respectively, with the opposition failing to replicate their previous electoral success in Wayanad.

Shortly after the results were announced, Priyanka expressed her gratitude to the constituents of Wayanad through a post on social media platform X.

She pledged to be a voice for the people in Parliament and acknowledged the hard work of her supporters. She also thanked her family, particularly her brother Rahul Gandhi, for their unwavering support throughout her campaign. Often drawing comparisons with her grandmother Indira Gandhi for their similarity in looks and way of speaking, Priyanka has been the go-to campaigner for the party since her entry into active politics and even before that when she campaigned for her mother Sonia and brother Rahul. In New Delhi, she met party president Kharge at his residence and thanked him for his support during the campaign. *—PTI*

CM consolidates position, Gowda family faces setback

After Cong sweeps Shiggaon, Sandur & Channapatna, CM says the 5 guarantee schemes played a major role

NAHEED ATAULLA
BENGALURU, 23 NOV

The Congress' sweeping victory in the bypolls to three Assembly seats has bolstered Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's position amidst speculation of a leadership change following MUDA scam.

The verdict gives a free hand to Siddaramaiah to revamp his Cabinet by dropping "non-performers"

The results have once again indicated that other backward classes, minorities, scheduled castes and tribes continue to be the vote bank of Congress with the support from Vokkaliga and Lingayat communities bettering their prospects.

The Channapatna result has been a big blow for former prime minister HD Deve Gowda's family which has been claiming to be the voice of the Vokkaliga community.

The Vokkaligas, a dominant force in the old Mysuru area encompassing Channapatna seat, appear to have not stood in toto with the Gowda family this time.

The entire family campaigned for Nikhil with 92-year-old Gowda also addressing meetings.

Cong's Sowmya Reddy celebrates
PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD

Kumaraswamy was looking to make Channapatna his base if he returns to State politics.

During the hustings, a racist comment of Minister BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan against Kumaraswamy had caused jitters in Congress party with apprehensions that the Vokkaliga community would boycott the party.

The result indicated that Congress managed to get the community's support but the biggest helping hand came from the Muslim community, who voted en bloc for the party.

For BJP, losing in Shiggaon and Sandur has once given leverage to State party unit President BY Vijayendra's baiters, who have been questioning his leadership. Reacting to the results, Opposition leader in Assembly R Ashoka accused Congress of using "money power" to secure victories.

Siddaramaiah, however, framed the bypolls as a fight between Congress' "truth" and NDA's "lies". "The Opposition parties indulged in a negative campaign against government's programmes, but ultimately, truth triumphed," he added.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and State Congress President attributed the victory, which increased Congress' tally in the Assembly from 135 to 138, to Siddaramaiah's leadership.

AICC General Secretary in-charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala said: "It's the victory of Congress guarantees and the government's policies besides the leadership of Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar." *—Salar News*

Congress workers celebrate their victory in Karnataka Assembly byelections in Chikkamagaluru; Congress candidate CP Yogeeshwara with party leader DK Suresh after the former won Karnataka's Channapatna Assembly constituency bypoll, in Ramanagara on Saturday ***PHOTO: PTI***

'No room for hate politics in society'

BENGALURU, 23 NOV

Expressing gratitude to the party workers and voters, on Congress party's victory in all three assembly constituencies for which bypolls were held Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that the people of the state have rejected hate politics and reaffirmed their faith in the Congress party's vision of governance rooted in development and welfare.

The Congress party on Saturday secured a sweeping victory in the Karnataka assembly bypolls, winning all three contested seats- Shiggaon, Sandur and Channapatna.

Speaking at a press conference at Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) office in Bengaluru following the results, Siddaramaiah said that the five guarantee schemes- Gruha Lakshmi, Gruha Jyothi, Shakti, Anna Bhagya and Yuva Nidhi- played a major role in the success of the Congress party in the assembly bypolls.

Taking a strong stance against the Opposition, he criticised their campaign tactics, accusing them of spreading hatred and attempting to divide communities. *—Salar News*

JD(S) breathing its last with Nikhil's defeat: Yogeeshwara

BENGALURU, 23 NOV

CP Yogeeshwara who won the Channapatna assembly by-poll on the Congress ticket said the JD(S) is breathing its last following the defeat of his opponent Nikhil Kumaraswamy.

Nikhil, the son of Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy and grandson of former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda, was contesting the election on the JD(S) ticket as part of BJP led NDA.

After the high profile Channapatna seat was allotted to JD(U) in the BJP led NDA, C P Yogeeshwaraa who was expecting an opportunity to contest the by-poll on BJP ticket, quit the saffron party and joined congress. Contesting on Congress ticket, he defeated JD(U) candidate Nikhil Kumaraswamy, by a margin of 25,413 votes. While Nikhil secured 87,229 votes, Yogeeshwaraa, a political heavyweight in the constituency, got 1,12,642 votes.

The third generation politician from the former prime minister's family, Nikhil, registered a hat-trick defeat. He lost in Mandya during the 2019 Lok Sabha election, tasted defeat in Ramanagara during 2023 assembly election and, now lost in Channapatna assembly bypoll this time. *—PTI*

DyCM Shivakumar praises CM for Congress bypoll triumph

BENGALURU, 23 NOV

DyCM DK Shivakumar addresses press meet after winning all three seats in assembly bypolls, at KPCC office in Bengaluru ***PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD***

Karnataka's Deputy Chief Minister DK Shiva Kumar attributed the Congress party's success in the recent assembly by-elections to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's leadership and the party's five key guarantees.

The victories, he suggested, serve as a promising precursor to the 2028 assembly elections, where he firmly believes Congress will prevail again.

The Congress party successfully retained crucial seats in Channapatna, Shiggaon, and Sandur following by-elections held on November 13, with results announced over the weekend.

In Sandur, Congress candidate E Annapoorna triumphed over BJP ST Morcha president Bangaru Hanumanthu, solidifying the party's dominance in the region.

In Channapatna, Congress won the prestigious seat with C.P. Yogeeshwara defeating JD(S) candidate Nikhil Kumaraswamy, son of Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy. Shiggaon witnessed Congress' Yasir Ahmed Khan Pathan overcoming Bharath Bommai, son of former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai.

Shivakumar emphasised that the party's victory is not merely a loss for individual candidates but a significant setback for their prominent political families. "Our guarantees, Siddaramaiah's leadership, and the dedication of our workers and MLAs are the driving forces behind this win," he stated during a press conference.

With this success, the Congress party's strength in the state assembly has increased to 138 seats. Shivakumar also advised opposition parties to concentrate on developmental initiatives rather than levelling unfounded accusations, as such tactics only lead to continued defeat. The Karnataka Assembly comprises a total of 224 seats. *—PTI*

SHIGGAON DEBACLE

Bommai humbly accepts people's verdict

HUBBALLI, 23 NOV

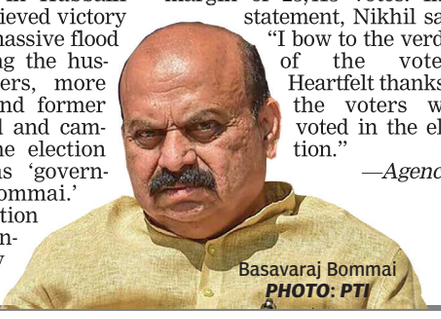
Former chief minister and BJP MP Basavaraj Bommai said he humbly accept the verdict of the people in Shiggaon byelection and congratulated Congress candidate Yasir Ahmed Khan Pathan, saying, "I hope the development journey in the constituency continues."

Basavaraj had represented Shiggaon segment four times and this time he vacated the seat to his son Bharath Bommai after he was elected to Lok Sabha. Bharath lost to Khan by a margin of 13,448 votes.

Basavaraj said in Hubballi that Congress achieved victory by unleashing a massive flood of money. "During the hustings, 10 ministers, more than 40 MLAs and former lawmakers stayed and campaigned here. The election was portrayed as 'government versus Bommai.' They won the election using the government machinery and money," he said.

The BJP leader said generally, byelections favour the ruling party. "In the past, BJP had won 13 out of 17 byelections during their time. This result does not indicate a mandate on the government's performance. They, too, won several byelections but eventually lost the government. Hence, Congress government should not assume this as a certificate for their one-and-a-half years of governance," he said.

In Channapatna, Nikhil Kumaraswamy lost to Congress' CP Yogeeshwara by a margin of 25,413 votes. In a statement, Nikhil said: "I bow to the verdict of the voters. Heartfelt thanks to the voters who voted in the election." *—Agencies*



Basavaraj Bommai
PHOTO: PTI

Mangaluru: Over 20 injured in multiple vehicle collision

DAKSHINA KANNADA, 23 NOV

As many as 20 individuals were injured in a series of vehicle collisions involving a private bus, a KSRTC bus, and a car near Addahole on the Mangaluru-Bengaluru National Highway, according to police reports on Saturday. The majority of the injuries occurred in the private bus, which overturned after losing control and subsequently collided with the KSRTC bus. The private bus was transporting a group of college students from Bengaluru who were returning from a trip to Kundapur. A car that was following behind also crashed into the KSRTC bus, leading to a chain reaction of collisions. *—PTI*

M'luru CCB arrests notorious criminal, foils attack plot

MANGALURU, 23 NOV

Dawood, a 43-year-old habitual offender with a history of serious crimes, has been arrested by the Mangaluru Crime Control Bureau (CCB) as reported by Ullal Police. The apprehension took place on Friday near Talapady-Devipura Road, where Dawood was allegedly plotting an attack on members of rival gangs. According to Police Commissioner Anupam Agrawal, a team led by Police Sub-Inspector Narendra acted on reliable intelligence to apprehend Dawood. During the operation, he resisted violently, attacking officers with a machete, injuring Sub-Inspector Narendra and others. *—PTI*

Land row: VHP saints unite against Waqf Board

The meet backs Centre's move to amend Waqf law

BENGALURU, 23 NOV

Sant Samavesha, a congregation of saints convened by Vishwa Hindu Parishad in Bengaluru passed a resolution on Saturday to fight against what they called "Waqf Board claiming Hindu land".

The meet also resolved to support the union government's decision to amend the Waqf law.

The Hindu saints including Vishwa Prasanna Teertha of Pejawar Math in Udupi, Eeshapriya Teertha Swamiji of Adamaru Math in Udupi and Savitananda Swamiji of Chittapura gathered at the event. Karnataka unit of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad organised the congregation.

According to VHP sources, the resolutions passed at the meet were, later submitted to the Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot.

The pontiffs who took part in the event said the fight would continue "until the grabbing of land belonging to Hindus, Hindu temples, Hindu organisations and farmers are withdrawn".

They demanded that stringent action should be taken against the officials, politicians and ministers who are responsible for disturbing harmony in the State by carrying out the Waqf scam, and grabbing the lands of Hindus, harassing the Hindu society.

Further, they asked the State government to cancel an order to hand over 2,750 acres of government land to the Waqf for burial grounds. "The order states that if government land is not available, private land should be purchased. This order should be canceled immediately," a statement from the organisers of the event read.

The temple governance should be given to the Hindus, it urged as well. *—PTI*

ISLAMIC DELEGATION MEET

Rector of Darul Uloom Sabeelur Rashad Moulana Sageer Ahmed Rashadi (L), All India Muslim Personal Law Board President Moulana Khalid Saifulla Rahmani, General Secretary Moulana Fazrur Rahim and Secretary Moulana Mahfuzur Rahman and member and former Rajya Sabha deputy chairman K Rahman Khan at 29th General Body Meeting held at Darul Uloom Sabeelur Rashad Nagawar, in Bengaluru on Saturday ***PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD***

CITY TO FACE POWER OUTAGE BETWEEN 10AM AND 5PM TODAY

BENGALURU 23 NOV

Bengaluru will face power outages between 10am and 5pm on Sunday due to maintenance and repair works taken up at the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL) 66/11 KV(A) station.

As per a notification shared by the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM), the areas that may face power outages on Sunday include Gandhinagar, Crescent Road, West End Circle, Sheshadripuram, Kumara Park West, Cauvery Bhavan, Cubbonpet, Anand Rao Circle, Race Course Road, areas in Vasanth Nagar and Brigade Plaza, Nrupathunga Road, RBI Road, Avenue Road, Central School, Khodays Circle, areas around Kempegowda Bus station, Magadi Road, Kamakshipalya, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Rajagopala Nagar, GKW Layout, ESIC Hospital Road, Mantri Mall, Mantri Green, Apollo hospital and surrounding areas. *—Salar News*

City cops seek religious leaders' cooperation for anti-drug fight

BENGALURU, 23 NOV

Faced with increasing drug addiction and peddling cases, City police have sought cooperation from local religious leaders to address the menace.

Bengaluru Police Commissioner B Dayananda said: "I urge community leaders, including church priests, pandits and imams to dedicate a few hours during their religious sermons to raise awareness about the dangers of drug abuse."

Addressing a monthly public meeting held in Kumaraswamy Layout on Saturday, Dayananda said City police have launched a crackdown on drug peddlers to break the supply chain of drugs and district administration is rehabilitating the drug abuse victims. "We have approached various rehabs for their cooperation," he said.

The police chief also said the consumption of synthetic drugs in Bengaluru has gone up substantially. "In 2021, Bengaluru police had seized 86.67kg of synthetic drugs and registered 196 cases. The following year, the numbers increased to 4,228.44kg and 4,042 cases registered, he added. *—Salar News*

- In 2021, Bengaluru police had seized 86.67kg of synthetic drugs and registered 196 cases. 2022, numbers increased to 4,228.44kg and 4,042 cases were registered

Quarry worker held over hair dryer blast death

BAGALKOT, 23 NOV

In a shocking turn of events in Ilkal town, Bagalkote district, a quarry worker has been arrested for orchestrating a murder plot that resulted in his girlfriend being injured instead.

Siddappa Sheelavant, 35, a resident of Kushtagi Taluk in Koppal district and employed at a granite company, allegedly attempted to kill one Shasikala on 15 November. Police revealed that Sheelavant suspected Shasikala of being responsible for the rift between him and his girlfriend, Basava Rajeshwari, a widow who had recently befriended S hasikala. *—PTI*

MAHARASHTRA ASSEMBLY POLLS
VERDICT 2024
3 SALAR DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU
SUNDAY | 24 NOVEMBER 2024

Ek hain to safe hain (We are safe if united)

With this slogan, PM Narendra Modi called for Hindu unity amid Cong's demand for caste census. Modi accused Cong of dividing OBCs, SCs and STs

Daroge toh maroge (If you fear, you will perish)

Cong Chief Mallikarjun Kharge coined this slogan urging the nation not to fear BJP & its communal divisive politics but to unite against hate allegedly spread by its leaders.

"The results of Maharashtra are unexpected and we will analyse those in detail. I feel immense pride as my family in Wayanad has placed its trust in Priyanka. I know she will lead with courage, compassion
—Rahul Gandhi, LoP in Lok Sabha

"We have passed the exam of democracy in Jharkhand. I express my gratitude to the people for this stupendous performance. Jharkhand is set to script 'Abua Raj, Abua Sarkar' (own state, own govt).
—Hemant Soren, Jharkhand CM

"We bow in gratitude to the people of Assam. The NDA's 5/5 victory in the current by-elections is a resounding testament to Assam's unwavering support for Modi's vision of good governance and development
—Himanta Biswa Sarma, Assam CM

FADNAVIS IS BJP'S MAN OF THE MATCH IN MAHARASHTRA BATTLE

He dedicates the win to Shinde, PM and Pawar; says it is the win of unity

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Union Minister JP Nadda at BJP headquarters in New Delhi, on Saturday PHOTO: PTI

MUMBAI, 23 NOV

Devendra Fadnavis, the 54-year-old leader who rose from humble beginnings to become a key figure in Maharashtra politics, is on course to regain the chief minister's post, a position he has held twice before.

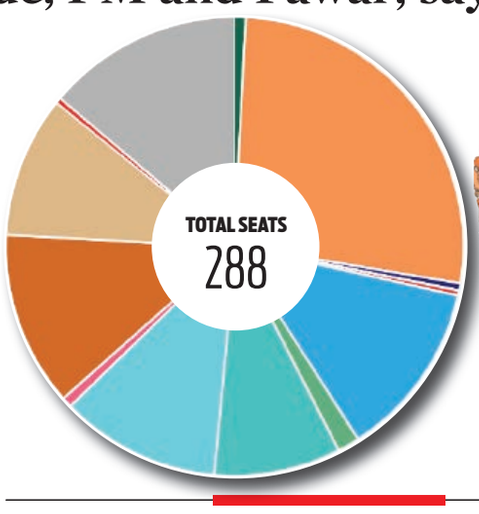
From serving as corporator to becoming the youngest mayor of Nagpur, he has strengthened his status within his party.

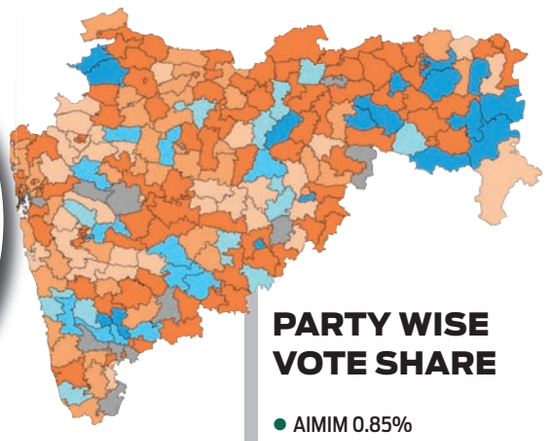
His began in earnest ahead of the 2014 assembly elections, where he garnered support from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and senior BJP leader Amit Shah. Modi famously referred to him as "Nagpur's gift to the country" during a campaign rally.

Fadnavis experienced a setback after the 2019 assembly elections as the then-united Shiv Sena leader Uddhav Thackeray pulled out of the pre-poll alliance over sharing of CM's post, shattering the BJP leader's much-hyped "mee punha yein (I will come back again) slogan.

In November 2019, Devendra Fadnavis briefly served as Maharashtra Chief Minister before resigning after 3 days. Uddhav Thackeray succeeded him but later stepped down as Eknath Shinde took over.

After Thackeray demitted from office, many thought that Fadnavis, would become the Chief Minister. However he was made the deputy Chief minister. Sarita Fadnavis, Fadnavis's mother, said her son is a "favourite" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Her son's tireless work brought this victory, she said. "I had said earlier that I am a modern Abhimanyu and know how to break the 'Chakravyuh'... I think, my contribution in this victory is small, it is the victory of our team. The people of Maharashtra have given us an unprecedented victory. This shows that people are with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In line with the slogan he gave 'Ek hain toh safe hain', people from all sections and communities voted for us unitedly... This is the victory of Mahayuti, CM Eknath Shinde, Deputy CM Ajit Pawar and Ramdas Athawale, this is the victory of unity," Fadnavis said. —*PTI*





PARTY WISE VOTE SHARE

- AIMIM 0.85%
- BJP 26.77%
- BSP 0.48%
- CPK 0.02%
- CPI(M) 0.34%
- INC 12.42%
- IUML 0.00%
- JD(S)0.00%
- MNS 1.55%
- NCP 9.01%
- NCPSP 11.28%
- NOTA 0.72%
- SHS 12.38%
- SHSUBT 9.96%
- SP 0.38%
- Other 13.82%

BJP win clears Adani's path for Dharavi slum redevelopment

The victory for ruling BJP-led Mahayuti in Maharashtra will booster billionaire Gautam Adani-led group's USD 3-billion project to redevelop Mumbai slum of Dharavi into a "world-class" district. Opposition Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) had pledged to reclaim all land given to the Adani group for redeveloping Asia's largest slum and promised to scrap the project if voted to power. But for Adani, who is facing bribery charges, the scrapping Dharavi project would have been a big setback.

Adani plans to turn 620 acres of prime land, about three quarters of the size of New York's Central Park, into a glitzy urban hub. About seven lakh living in rickety shanties with open sewers and shared toilets in the densely populated slums located close to Mumbai's international airport, are to be given flats of up to 350 sq ft free of cost. —*PTI*

Something is fishy: Raut on poll results

MUMBAI, 23 NOV

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Saturday alleged that there was a "big conspiracy" and something was "fishy" in the Maharashtra assembly poll results with trends suggesting a landslide victory for the Mahayuti combine.

He said the poll results do not reflect people's mandate as the situation was very different on the ground and there was palpable anger against the government.

"I see a big conspiracy in this...This is not a mandate of Marathi 'manoos' and farmers," he said.

PHOTO: PTI

There was no doubt that money was used in the polls, he alleged.

"How can all MLAs of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde win? How can Ajit Pawar, whose betrayal angered Maharashtra, win?" the Rajya Sabha MP asked.

The ruling BJP-led Mahayuti alliance appeared set to retain power in the state and was leading in 204 of the 288 assembly seats, as per the figures by the Election Commission.

The opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) was stumbling, with its candidates leading in just 47 seats.

In the ruling Mahayuti alliance, the BJP contested 149 assembly seats, Shiv Sena 81 seats, and the Ajit Pawar-led NCP fielded candidates in 59 constituencies.

In the MVA combine, the Congress fielded 101 candidates, Shiv Sena (UBT) 95, and NCP (SP) put up 86 candidates. —*PTI*

FATE OF BIGGIES

WINNERS		LOSERS	
DHANANJAY PANDITRAO MUNDE Party: NCP Seat: Parli	Won by 1,40,224	CHAVAN PRITHVIRAJ Party: INC Seat: Karad South	Lost by 39,355
CHAVAN SREEJAYA Party: BJP Seat: Bhokar	Won by 50,551	FAHAD AHMAD Party: NCP(SP Seat: Anushakti Nagar	Lost by 3,378
NANA PATOLE Party: INC Seat: Sakoli	Won by 208	AJAZ KHAN Party: ASP(KR) Seat: Versova	Lost by 65,241
CHANDRASHEKHAR BAWANKULE Party: BJP Seat: Kamthi	Won by 40,946	RAJESHBHAIYYA TOPE Party: INC Seat: Ghansawangi	Lost by 2,309
ROHIT PAWAR Party: NCP(SP Seat: Karjat Jamkhed	Won by 1,243	NAWAB MALIK Party: NCP Seat: Mankhurd Shivaji Nagar	Lost by 39, 279
KASHIRAM VECHAN PAWARA Party: BJP Seat: Shirpur	Won by 1,45,944	SIDDIQUI NASERUDDIN Party: AIMIM Seat: Aurangabad East	Lost by 27,902

NDA WINS BIHAR, ASSAM BYPOLLS; AAP RETAINS PUNJAB

SEAT	WINNERS	LOSERS
ASSAM		
Dholai (SC)	Nihar Ranjan Das (BJP) VOTE MARGIN 9,098	Dhrubajyoti Purkayastha (INC)
Sidli (ST)	Nirmal Kumar Brahma (BJP) VOTE MARGIN 37,016	Suddho Kumar Basumatary(BPF)
Bongaigaon	Diptimayee Choudhary (AGP) VOTE MARGIN 35,164	Brajenjit Sinha (INC)
Behali	Diganta Ghatowal (BJP) VOTE MARGIN 9,051	Jayanta Borah (INC)
Samaguri	Diplu Ranjan Sarmah (BJP) VOTE MARGING 24,501	Tanzil Hussain (INC)
BIHAR		
Tarari	Vishal Prashant (BJP) VOTE MARGIN 10,612	Raju Yadav (CPI-ML)
Ramgarh	Ashok Kumar Singh (BJP) VOTE MARGIN 1,362	Satish Kumar Singh Yadav (BSP)
Imamganj (SC)	Deepa Kumari (HAM) VOTE MARGIN 5,945	Raushan Kumar(RJD)
Belaganj	Manorama Devi (JD(U) VOTE MARGIN 21,391	Vishwanath Kumar Singh (RJD)
CHHATTISGARH		
Raipur City South	Sunil Soni (BJP) VOTE MARGIN 46,167	Akash Sharma (INC)
GUJARAT		
Vav	Thakor Swarupji Sardarji (BJP) VOTE MARGIN 2,442	Gulabsinh Rajput (INC)
KERALA		
Chelakkara	U R Pradeep (CPI (M) VOTE MARGIN 12,201	Ramya Haridas(INC)
Palakkad	Rahul Mamkootathil (INC) VOTE MARGIN 18,840	Krishnakumar (BJP)
MADHYA PRADESH		
Budhni	Ramakant Bhargava (BJP) VOTE MARGIN 13,901	Rajkumar Patel (INC)
Vijaypur	MUKESH MALHOTRA (INC) VOTE MARGIN 7,364	RAMNIWAS RAWAT(BJP)
MEGHALAYA		
Gambegre (ST)	Mehtab Chandee Sangma (INC) VOTE MARGIN 4,594	Sadhiarani M Sangma (TMC)
PUNJAB		
Dera Baba Nanak	Gurdeep Singh Randhawa (AAP) VOTE MARGIN 5,699	Jatinder Kaur (INC)
Chabbewal (SC)	Dr. Ishank Kumar (AAP) VOTE MARGIN 28,690	Ranjit Kumar (INC)
Gidderbaha	Hardeep Singh Dimpy Dhillon (AAP) VOTE MARGIN 21,969	Amrita Warring (INC)
Barnala	Kuldeep Singh Dhillon (INC) VOTE MARGIN 2,157	Harinder Dhaliwal (AAP)

Priyanka debut win infuses hope into Congress

NEW DELHI, 23 NOV

Will she? Will she not? And on Saturday, she did. After years of frenzied speculation, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is finally entering the Lok Sabha after a resounding win from Wayanad with many a hope that she will re-energise her party and its dwindling electoral fortunes.

The 52-year-old, who joins her mother Sonia and brother Rahul as an MP in what is a rare instance of three members of a family together in Parliament, would visit Parliament as a teenager to listen to her father Rajiv Gandhi speak as prime minister. Four decades later, she joins as member herself.

Priyanka's entry into Parliament comes at a difficult time for the party, which has been jolted by electoral defeats in Haryana and Maharashtra. Meanwhile, in a major boost to the opposition Congress-led UDF, its candidate Rahul Mamkootathil retained the Palakkad Assembly seat, winning the by-poll by a significant margin of 18,840 votes, despite challenges posed by the BJP-led NDA and CPI(M)-headed LDF.

In a breath of relief, the ruling LDF retained the Chelakkara Assembly segment by defeating the Congress-led UDF in the crucial bypoll, providing significant relief to the Pinarayi Vijayan government amidst allegations of anti-incumbency. —*PTI*

AICC Secretary Mansoor Ali Khan with Priyanka Gandhi FILE PHOTO

NDA sweeps bypolls to four Assembly segments in Bihar

PATNA, 23 NOV

The ruling NDA in Bihar on Saturday swept the bypolls to four assembly segments, retaining Imamganj and wresting from the INDIA bloc Tarari, Ramgarh and Belaganj, receiving a boost ahead of the assembly elections due next year.

Candidates of the Jan Suraaj, floated recently by former political strategist Prashant Kishor with much fanfare, lost deposits in all but one seat, in a clear indication that the fledgling party, despite claims of taking the political landscape in the state by storm, needs to cover much ground.

In a boost to the Bhagwant Mann-led government, the ruling AAP in Punjab wrested Gidderbaha, Dera Baba Nanak and Chabbewal assembly segments from the Congress, which ousted AAP from Barnala. —*PTI*

Batenge toh katenge (Divided we perish)

With this slogan, UP CM Yogi Adityanath urged Hindus to unite against alleged Bangladeshi infiltrators taking their lands, rights and resources in Jharkhand.

Jal, jungle & zameen (land, water & forests)

While BJP accused Cong of harbouring infiltrators, Cong claimed Modi is instrumental in the growth of controversial Adani Group, which snatches tribals' 'jal, jungle & zameen'

> We have passed the exam of democracy in Jharkhand. I express my gratitude to the people for this stupendous performance. Jharkhand is set to script 'Abua Raj, Abua Sarkar' (own state, own govt)
>
> —Hemant Soren, Jharkhand CM

> NDA's win is a proof of people's unwavering faith in Modi ji. Hearty congratulations to all the winning candidates! If we are divided we will be cut. If we stay united we will be safe
>
> —Yogi Adityanath, Uttar Pradesh CM

> I would like to thank and congratulate the 'Maa, Mati and Manush' from the bottom of my heart. We all are common people and that is our identity. We are not zamindars, but the custodians of the people
>
> —Mamata Banerjee, West Bengal CM

J'khand power couple Hemant & Kalpana outsmart BJP's campaign

Victory highlights influence of Sorens among tribal communities

JMM and Congress workers celebrate INDIA's win in Jharkhand Assembly elections at Ranchi's JMM office, on Saturday **PHOTO: PTI**

RANCHI, 23 NOV

Call it a charismatic show by the power couple — Hemant and Kalpana Soren— whom BJP had dubbed as 'Bunty aur Babli,' or a vote for continuity, Jharkhand's JMM has secured a second consecutive term as part of INDIA bloc.

Both Chief Minister Hemant Soren and his wife, legislator Kalpana Soren, who entered politics after her husband's arrest earlier this year, held nearly 200 election rallies after elections were announced.

This performance is notable given the challenges faced by the party. Two of its legislators, Nalin Soren and Joba Majhi, contested Lok Sabha elections and won. Additionally, prominent figures such as Sita Soren, Champai Soren, and Lobin Hembrom switched allegiance to BJP.

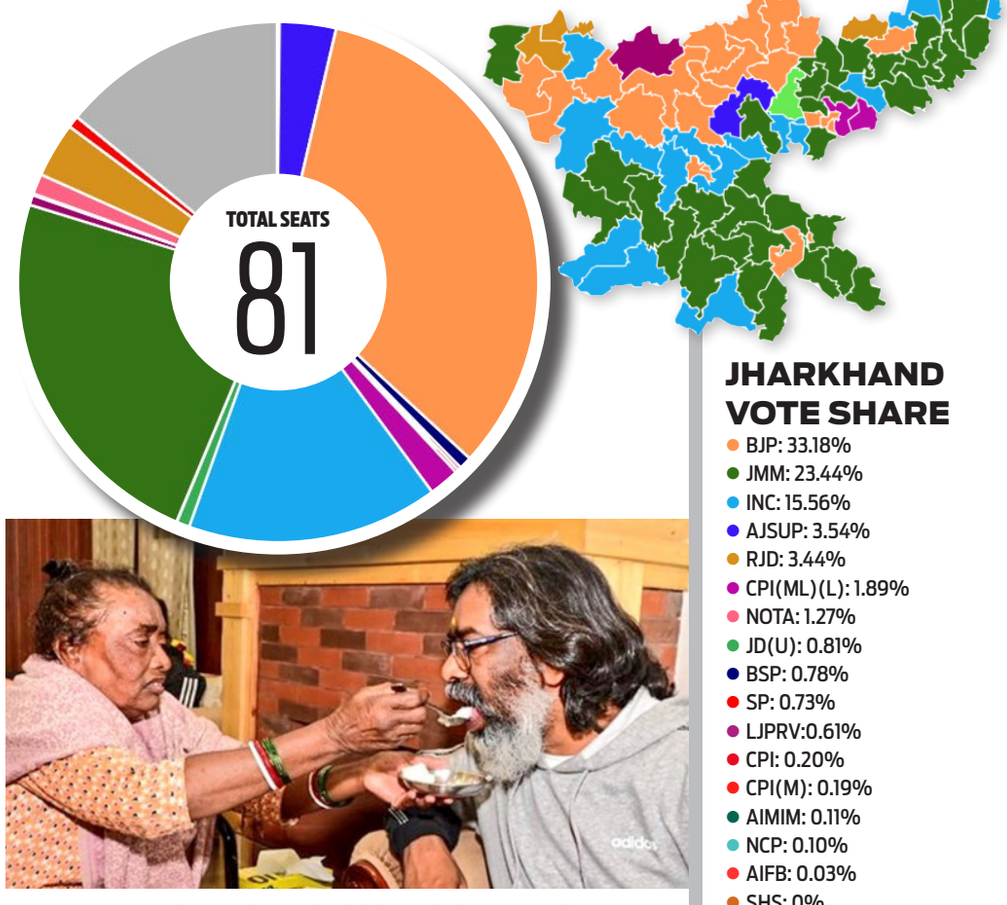
JMM's return to power in Jharkhand will signify the deepened influence of the Sorens among the tribal communities, as they successfully mobilised tribal sentiments following Hemant's arrest on 31 January by Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a money-laundering case linked to an alleged land scam. Both Hemant and Kalpana managed to create a wave of sympathy among the tribal electorate, and despite the anti-incumbency sentiment, BJP failed to capitalise on this and form a government, according to poll analysts.

Hemant Soren, the tribal warrior with a resilient political career

Two-time chief minister Soren's journey to the top has not been easy. From taking charge as CM at a young age to becoming a strong voice for tribal communities, his political career has been shaped by numerous challenges.

Born on 10 August, 1975, in Nemra village near Hazaribag, Soren's early life was influenced by the political legacy of his father, Shibu Soren, the leader of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha.

A pivotal moment in his career came in 2016 when BJP-led government attempted to amend laws protecting tribal land, such as Chotanagpur Tenancy Act and Santhal Pargana Tenancy Act. Soren led a massive movement to protect tribal rights, which not only earned him widespread support. —*PTI*



Hemant Soren's mother Rupi Soren feeds him curd after JMM's win **PHOTO: PTI**

JHARKHAND VOTE SHARE

- BJP: 33.18%
- JMM: 23.44%
- INC: 15.56%
- AJSUP: 3.54%
- RJD: 3.44%
- CPI(ML)(L): 1.89%
- NOTA: 1.27%
- JD(U): 0.81%
- BSP: 0.78%
- SP: 0.73%
- LJPRV:0.61%
- CPI: 0.20%
- CPI(M): 0.19%
- AIMIM: 0.11%
- NCP: 0.10%
- AIFB: 0.03%
- SHS: 0%
- OTHERS: 14.12%

No CM face, focus on infiltration cost BJP

RANCHI, 23 NOV

PHOTO: PTI

Despite BJP-led NDA throwing all its weight to snatch Jharkhand from the hands of a JMM-headed coalition, the saffron camp suffered a debacle leaving the party's rank and file wondering what had gone wrong.

Top BJP leaders such as Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma canvassed aggressively, but NDA did not project any CM candidate, as its campaigns mainly focused on "infiltration from Bangladesh" and "corruption" of Hemant Soren regime.

A source in the state BJP claimed that failing to project a tribal CM's face in the polls cost it dearly. Another leader claimed the entire show was run by "two leaders from outside" and the state BJP gave tickets to leaders who came from other parties, ignoring its own.

Political analyst Dr Bagish Chandra Verma said BJP failed to address grass-root issues linked to masses during its entire campaign which was concentrated on national issues and 'infiltration' which rural massed failed to connect.

Besides, Muslims, Christians and tribals which were traditional vote bank of the JMM, women were added to its fold because of schemes like 'Maiyan Samman Yojna' promising Rs 2,500 financial aid to women in the age-group of 18-50 years from present Rs 1,000, said Verma. —*PTI*

FATE OF BIGGIES

WINNERS		LOSERS	
KALPANA SOREN Party: JMM Seat: Gandey	Won by 16,960	AMAR KUMAR BAURI Party: BJP Seat: Chandankiyari	Lost by 33,936
BASANT SOREN Party: JMM Seat: Dumka	Won by 14,588	MAHUA MAJI Party: JMM Seat: Ranchi	Lost by 85,341
RAMDAS SOREN Party: JMM Seat: Ghatsila	Won by 22,446	MEERA MUNDA Party: BJP Seat: Potka	Lost by 27,902
JAIRAM MAHTO Party: JKLKM Seat: Dumri	Lost by 10,945	BABU LAL SOREN Party: BJP Seat: Ghatsila	Lost by 22,446
BABULAL MARANDI Party: BJP Seat: Dhanwar	Won by 27,774	BANNA GUPTA Party: INC Seat: Jamshedpur West	Lost by 33,464
RAMESHWAR ORAON Party: INC Seat: Lohardaga	Won by 34,670	SUDESH MAHTO Party: AJSU Seat: Silli	Lost by 23,879

BJP SHINES BRIGHT IN BYPOLLS, CONG'S MISERY CONTINUES

SEAT	WINNERS	LOSERS
RAJASTHAN		
Jhunjhunu	Rajendra Bhamboo (BJP) VOTE MARGIN 42,848	Amit Ola (INC)
Dausa	Deen Dayal (INC) VOTE MARGIN 2,300	Jag Mohan (BJP)
Ramgarh	Sukhvant Singh (BJP) VOTE MARGIN 13,636	Aryaan Zubair (INC)
Deoli-Uniara	Rajendra Gurjar (BJP) VOTE MARGIN 41,121	Naresg Meena (Ind)
Khinwsar	Rewant Ram Danga (BJP) VOTE MARGIN 13,901	Kanika Beniwal (RLP)
Chorasi (ST)	Anil Kumar Katara (BAP) VOTE MARGIN 24,370	Karilal Nanoma (BJP)
Salumbar	Shanta Meena (BJP) VOTE MARGIN 57,668	Reshma Meena (INC)
UTTAR PRADESH		
Meerapur	Mithilesh Pal (RLD) VOTE MARGIN 30,796	Sumbul Rana (SP)
Kundarki	Ramvir Singh Thakur (BJP) VOTE MARGIN 1, 44,791	Mohammad Rizwan SP
Ghaziabad	Sanjeev Sharma (BJP) VOTE MARGIN 69,351	Singh Raj Jadav (SP)
Khair (SC)	Surendra Diler (BJP) VOTE MARGIN 38,393	Charu Jain (SP)
Sishamau	Naseem Solanki (SP) VOTE MARGIN 8,564	Suresh Awasthi (BJP)
Phulpur	Deepak Patel (BJP) VOTE MARGIN 11,305	Mohd Mujtaba (SP)
Karhal	Tej Pratap Singh (SP) VOTE MARGIN 14,725	Anujesh Pratap Singh (BJP)
Katheri	Dharmraj Nishad (BJP) VOTE MARGIN 34,514	Shobawati Verma (BJP)
Majhawan	Shuchismita Maurya (BJP) VOTE MARGIN 4,922	Jyoti Bind (SP)
UTTARAKHAND		
Kedarnath	Asha Nautiyal (BJP) VOTE MARGIN 5,622	Manoj Rawat (INC)
WEST BENGAL		
Sitai (SC)	Sangita Roy (TMC) VOTE MARGIN 1,30,636	Dipak Kumar Roy (BJP)
Madarihat (ST)	JayPrakash Toppo (TMC) VOTE MARGIN 28,168	Rahul Lohar (BJP)
Naihati	Sanat Dey (TMC) VOTE MARGIN 49,277	Rupak Mitra (BJP)
Haroa	SK Rabiul Islam (TMC) VOTE MARGIN 1,31,388	Bimal Das (BJP)
Medinipur	Sujoy Hazra (TMC) VOTE MARGIN 33,996	Subhajit Roy (BJP)
Taldangra	Falguni Singhababu (TMC) VOTE MARGIN 34,082	Ananya Roy Chakraborty (BJP)
SIKKIM		
Soreng-Chakung	Aditya Goyal (SKM) VOTE MARGIN 00,000	Wins uncontested
Namchi-Singhithang	Satish Chandra Rai (SKM) VOTE MARGIN 00,000	Wins uncontested

SP's loss is BJP's gain in UP; NDA flies high in R'than

NEW DELHI, 23 NOV

Ruling parties held sway in most of the 13 states in the Assembly byelection results declared on Saturday, with the BJP and its allies wresting seats in Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan and TMC sweeping West Bengal.

After the reverses in the Lok Sabha election, the ruling BJP-led alliance secured its hold over the crucial state of Uttar Pradesh with its candidates winning seven out of nine seats. BJP retained four seats—Ghaziabad, Khair, Majhawan and Phulpur —and wrested Katehari and Kundarki from SP while its ally RLD retained one. SP, which had four of these seats, retained Sishamau and Karhal.

BJP won five of the seven seats in Rajasthan, wresting three from Congress and one from RLP.

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) candidates Aditya Golay and Satish Chandra Rai were on Saturday elected unopposed in the bypolls to Soreng-Chakung and Namchi-Singhithang.

BJP retained Kedarnath Assembly seat in Uttarakhand, with its candidate Asha Nautiyal defeating Congress' Manoj Rawat by 5,622 votes. —*PTI*

RG Kar fails to impact voters as TMC sweeps bypolls

KOLKATA, 23 NOV

TMC swept bypolls in West Bengal on Saturday, retaining five seats and wresting Madarihat from BJP, further cementing its political dominance in West Bengal, even as the ongoing protests over the RG Kar incident failed to sway voters. Five of the six constituencies are located in South Bengal, a TMC stronghold, while Madarihat is in the north, which the BJP had won in 2021. TMC's vote share surged to 54.05 per cent. The Left failed to capitalise on the public anger surrounding the RG Kar incident, losing in all constituencies. —*PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

India inaugurates its 1st Constitution Museum in Haryana

SONIPAT, 23 NOV

India's first Constitution Museum was inaugurated at the OP Jindal Global University on Saturday by Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. Addressing a gathering at the varsity, Speaker Birla said this marks a historic milestone and credited the university's Chancellor Naveen Jindal, who is also a BJP MP, for doing such work. This museum will acquaint present and coming generations with our constitution, how it was framed and what discussions and debates took place then. He said India's Constitution is acting as a guide to the world. Notably, the museum is designed to provide a deep and engaging exploration of the Constitution's essential elements and key provisions for the citizens. *—PTI*

Video of students cleaning car at UP school sparks probe

SAHARANPUR, 23 NOV

A video surfaced online showing students of a government primary school cleaning a vehicle on the school premises, prompting an investigation from the education department, an official said on Saturday. According to sources, the video appears to be of the primary school in Palli village of Block Puwarkan. Some students were seen leaving their classes and cleaning a car while teachers stood nearby. The District Basic Education Officer (BSA) Kumari Komal handed over the investigation to the Block Education Officer of Sadar and said that strict action would be taken against the authorities. *—PTI*

Delhi woman kills daughter to marry another man

NEW DELHI, 23 NOV

A woman allegedly strangled her five-year-old daughter to death in northwest Delhi to marry a man she met on Instagram, police said on Saturday. The woman also told the police that she lived with a relative in Himachal Pradesh before coming to Delhi where her child was sexually assaulted, they said. Police received information from Deep Chand Bandhu Hospital on Friday about a child being brought dead. A case was was registered and the child's relatives, including her mother, was interrogated, the Delhi Police said in a statement. The woman also disclosed that her first husband abandoned her, following which she came in contact with a man who identified himself as Rahul on Instagram. Later, she moved to Delhi with the intention of marrying him, it said. *—PTI*

R'than cops rescue woman abducted by family, 9 held

JAIPUR, 23 NOV

A woman, who got married to a man from a different caste out of her own will, was kidnapped allegedly by her family members in the Balotra district of Rajasthan, police said on Saturday. The incident occurred on Friday and nine people, including the woman's parents, have been arrested in the case, police said. According to police, the woman along with her husband and other family members was going to a temple in an autorickshaw. Her parents and other relatives came in a vehicle, stopped the autorickshaw and dragged her out. They forcefully took her with them in the vehicle, police said. A purported video of the incident also surfaced online. Upon receiving information, the police immediately swung into action and intercepted the vehicle in the Sirohi district near the Rajasthan-Gujarat border. The woman was rescued, police said. *—PTI*

Pets, street animals suffer as pollution levels rise in Delhi

Delhi's AQ on Saturday sliped back to 'severe' at 420

NEW DELHI, 23 NOV

Rising pollution levels in Delhi are impacting pets and street animals, causing health issues and behavioural changes that have concerned pet owners and animal welfare activists, veterinarians said.

Delhi's air quality slipped back to the 'severe' category on Saturday morning with an AQI of 420 while the minimum temperature was recorded at 11.4 degrees Celsius.

Many animals are experiencing respiratory problems, with symptoms such as coughing, sneezing, vomiting, diarrhea, and chest congestion attributed to the city's worsening air quality, they said.

Animals face issues similar to humans, including suffocation, lung damage, and respiratory inflammation. During during Diwali, there are additional cases of shock from noise pollution and burns, particularly in monkeys that accidentally touch wires, he said.

Smog covers the Anand Vihar area in east Delhi, on Friday PHOTO: PTI

Pet owners are taking measures such as limiting outdoor walks to protect their pets from toxic air, but this has led to behavioural issues like pent-up energy and aggression in some dogs.

Cat owners have also observed changes, with many reporting their pets experiencing eye irritation and sneezing while avoiding outdoor spaces. For street animals, the situation is even worse. Reduced visibility during smoggy mornings and nights has led to an increase in hit-and-run cases. *—PTI*

SAMBHAL MOSQUE ROW

SP MP's dad among 34 'bound down' over breach of peace

SAMBHAL, 23 NOV

The father of the Samajwadi Party's Sambhal MP is among 34 people "bound down" by the local administration over apprehensions of breach of peace following claims that a local Mughal-era mosque was originally the site of an ancient temple significant to the Hindu faith.

Subdivisional Magistrate (SDM) Vandana Mishra told PTI on Saturday that the 34 people had been bound down on a bond of up to Rs 10 lakh to maintain peace and order.

The local administration can order someone to be bound down if they receive information that the person is likely to breach the peace, disturb public tranquillity, cause danger to public harmony or commit any wrongful act.

Among the 34 people bound down is Mamlukur Rahman Barq, the father of the Samajwadi Party's Sambhal MP Zia ur Rahman Barq, the SDM said.

PHOTO: X

Police had stepped up security, imposed prohibitory orders and conducted a flag march ahead of Friday prayers at the mosque.

The mosque was surveyed on Tuesday on the orders of a local court following a petition that claimed that a Harihar temple originally stood at the site.

The court has said that a report should be filed after conducting a videography and photography survey through the commission, he had added.

The next date for hearing in this case is 29 January. *— PTI*

Manipur: Internet ban extended for 2 days

IMPHAL, 23 NOV

The Manipur government on Saturday extended suspension of mobile internet services for two days in seven districts of the state, according to an order.

Amid escalating violence, the administration suspended the services on November 16 for two days to prevent anti-social elements from spreading content that might create law and order problems. It has been extended several times since then.

"The state government after reviewing the prevailing law and order situation has decided to continue suspension of mobile internet services in Imphal West, Imphal East, Kakching, Bishnupur, Thoubal, Churachandpur and Kangpokpi for another two days in public interests," the order issued by the home department said.

Security personnel during a search operation in the fringe and vulnerable areas of hill and valley districts of Manipur PHOTO: PTI

Internet services were suspended on November 16 after violence broke out in the state following recovery of bodies of three women and three children.

The Manipur government had lifted the suspension on broadband services on 19 November, considering the hardships faced by common people, healthcare facilities, educational institutions and other offices. *—PTI*

16 CASES THIS YEAR

Kota: Student preparing for JEE commits suicide

KOTA, 23 NOV

An 18-year-old student, who was preparing for the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) allegedly committed suicide by jumping from the sixth floor of his hostel here, police said on Saturday.

No suicide note was recovered from his room and the reason for the suicide is yet to be ascertained, they said.

According to police, Vivek Kumar, a resident of Annupur in Madhya Pradesh, had been preparing for JEE at a coaching institute here since April.

He lived in a hostel room in Rajiv Gandhi Nagar in Jawahar Nagar area, the police said.

Deputy Superintendent of Police Yogesh Sharma told PTI that the boy allegedly jumped from the sixth floor around midnight.

PHOTO: PTI

A forensic team was sent to the spot to collect evidence and examine the circumstances surrounding the reason of death, he added.

This is the 16th suicide by a coaching student in Kota this year since January, while last year, the city reported 26 such cases. *—PTI*

PHOTO: X

King Charles III plans India visit amid recovery

LONDON, 23 NOV

Britain's King Charles III is planning an official visit to India as part of a government charm offensive and an added boost for his health since a cancer diagnosis earlier in the year, Daily Mirror claimed on Saturday.

According to the report, the visit will also include stops in Pakistan and Bangladesh as part of a subcontinent tour that had been abandoned in the wake of the passing of his mother Queen Elizabeth II in September 2022.

The 76-year-old monarch and his wife, Queen Camilla, 77, made a "private stopover" at Soukya International Holistic Health Centre (SIHHC), a wellness resort in Whitefield, Bengaluru, in October on their way back from Australia and Samoa and are believed to be planning a return.

A spokesperson has confirmed that with his medical treatment progressing well, they were considering a "pretty normal-looking full ov erseas tour*—PTI*

ASSAM: 8 KILLED IN ROAD ACCIDENTS

GUWAHATI, 23 NOV

Eight people were killed and three critically injured in two separate road mishaps in Assam's Bajali and Dhubri districts on Saturday, police said.

Five people were killed and two critically injured when the vehicle in which they were travelling hit a stationary truck in Bajali district.

In another accident, three people died and another was seriously injured when the vehicle in which they were travelling collided with a stationary truck near Garehat in Agomoni area of Dhubri district.

In the Bajali mishap, the deceased were returning home to Nalbari after witnessing the ongoing 'Ras' festival when their van hit the truck at Bhabanipur, killing five persons on the spot.

The two injured people have been admitted to Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed Medical College and Hospital and their condition was stated to be critical, police added. *—PTI*

1984 riots: Court summons ex-cops

NEW DELHI, 23 NOV

A court here on Saturday summoned two former police officials as witnesses in a 1984-anti Sikh riots case against Congress leader Jagdish Tytler.

The case is linked to the killings of three Sikhs at Gurudwara Pul Bangash here in 1984.

Special CBI Judge Jitendra Singh, who was scheduled to record the statement of another prosecution witness, Manmohan Kaur, was informed by the federal probe agency that the summons could not be served at her address.

Jagdish Tytler PHOTO: X

The CBI sought time to serve the summon to Kaur again. It was granted by the court.

The judge then issued summons to former police officials -- Dharam Chandrasekar and Ravi Sharma -- and directed them to appear before the court on December 2, the next date of hearing.

The court framed charges of murder and other offences against Tytler on 13 September. *—PTI*

NGT orders JLN stadium restoration after Diljit's concert

NEW DELHI, 23 NOV

The National Green Tribunal has ordered immediate action for the restoration of the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here in the "chaotic aftermath" of last month's Diljit Dosanjh concert that saw the stadium's running track littered with trash.

Taking suo motu cognisance of the issue based on a news report, the tribunal said, "The matter indicates a violation of the Solid Waste Management Rules and the Environment Protection Act."

In an order dated 19 November, a bench led by NGT Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava said, "The aftermath of the concert left the stadium grounds littered with trash, including broken glass bottles, beer cans, plastic wrappers, and other refuse and the mess was so significant that athletes were seen trying to clean up the stadium, but their efforts were in vain due to the sheer scale of the damage."

- The tribunal said, "The matter indicates a violation of the Solid Waste Management Rules and the Environment Protection Act

The concert was held on 26 and 27 October and according to the Sports Authority of India, over 70,000 people attended the event. *—PTI*

J&K: 14 suspects hiding in PoK declared proclaimed offenders

RAJOURI/JAMMU, 23 NOV

Fourteen people, including a couple, believed to have illegally crossed the Line of Control into Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) in 2011, were declared proclaimed offenders by a local court in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, officials said on Saturday.

The court of Munsiff-cum-Judicial magistrate (first class), Kotranka declared the accused as proclaimed offenders in response to an application moved by Kandi SHO on November 14, which will facilitate attachment of their properties, the officials said.

A case under relevant sections of Egress Internal Movement (Control) Ordinance stands registered against them, they said.

Court observed that general arrest warrants were issued against all the accused on 16 February, 2012. *—PTI*

UN: Hindi gains global fame, fosters inclusivity

UNITED NATIONS, 22 NOV

Hindi has gained global prominence, transcending geographical boundaries to become a widely appreciated language that fosters inclusivity, UN ambassadors have said, as they emphasised the need to promote it to connect and empower people worldwide.

The Permanent Mission of India to the UN organised a special event in the UN headquarters on Friday to commemorate Hindi Diwas. The event was attended by a delegation of Indian parliamentarians, currently on a visit to the UN.

The delegation leader, Member of Parliament Birendra Prasad Baishya, highlighted the popular appeal of Hindi in different countries during his remarks at the event that was attended by several UN ambassadors and officials.

Nepal's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Lok Bahadur Thapa, said Hindi has played a crucial role in further expanding and strengthening people-to-people relations, engagements and linkages between India and Nepal.

India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish said Hindi has become a language synonymous with the vibrant cultural landscape of India and has transcended geographical boundaries to emerge as a popular language around the globe "on the strength of our diaspora as well as the prominence of Bollywood and classical literature". *—PTI*

IN WASHINGTON

Modi honoured with Global Peace Award

WASHINGTON, 23 NOV

The Association of Indian American Minorities (AIAM), a newly formed non-governmental organisation, was launched on Friday at Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church, Maryland.

The initiative aims to unite and promote the welfare of minority communities within the Indian American diaspora in the United States.

During the event, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was honoured (in absentia) with the Dr Martin Luther King Jr Global Peace Award for Minority Upliftment. The award was jointly presented by Washington Adventist University and AIAM, recognising his efforts towards inclusive development and minority welfare.

Leaders from various Indian-American communities applauded PM Narendra Modi for his commitment to inclusive growth PHOTO: PTI

Renowned Sikh philanthropist Jasdip Singh was appointed as the Founder and Chairman of AIAM, supported by a seven-member Board of Directors representing diverse Indian minority communities. These members include Baljinder Singh and Dr Sukhpal Dhanoa (Sikhs), Pawan Bezwada and Elisha Pulivarti (Christians), Dipak Thakker (Hindu), Juned Qazi (Muslim), and Nissim Reuben (Indian Jewish).

Addressing the gathering, AIAM Chairman Jasdip Singh emphasised the organisation's role in advancing PM Modi's vision of a "Viksit Bharat" by 2047. Members of the Indian minority diaspora praised PM Modi for upholding India's constitutional commitment to secularism and fostering global recognition for the nation.

They also condemned attempts to create communal divides, asserting that minorities in India now resist false narratives aimed at disrupting the country's unity. *—ANI*

Putin vows production of hypersonic missiles

Russia used the experimental 'Oreshnik' missile to target Ukraine's Dnipro on Thursday

MOSCOW, 23 NOV

President of Russia Vladimir Putin announced the imminent mass production of the "Oreshnik" intermediate-range ballistic missile (IRBM). The decision was taken during a meeting with representatives from the Russian Defence Ministry and the national military-industrial sector on 22 November following reports that Russian forces had employed the "Oreshnik" to strike Dnipro in Ukraine's Dnipropetrovsk Oblast.

Putin refuted claims that the Oreshnik is merely an upgrade of Soviet-era systems, asserting that the missile represents "the latest Russian developments" and has no global equivalents. He contended that its potential striking power, especially in mass deployments combined with other precision long-range systems, allows it to be compared to strategic weapons, despite not being classified as one. According to Putin, a stockpile of these missile systems is ready for deployment and further testing of the Oreshnik will continue, including under combat conditions. Furthermore, he stated that Russia is actively developing both medium- and short-range missile systems, with several undergoing tests and preparations for mass production.

Military expert Yan Matveev speculated that the Oreshnik may be a modified version of the RS-26 "Rubezh" missile, which has a reported range of up to 6,00Okm and can carry multiple warheads, each with an estimated payload of 0.3 megatons. *—Kyiv Independent*

Russian President Vladimir Putin at Kremlin in Moscow, Russia, Friday **PHOTO: PTI**

Indian national held for procuring arms for Russia

WASHINGTON, 23 NOV

A 57-year-old Indian national, Sanjay Kaushik, has been arrested in the United States for allegedly procuring aerospace components on behalf of Russian entities, contravening export control laws. Kaushik, the Managing Partner of New Delhi-based Arezo Aviation, was detained in Miami on 17 October after arriving from India on official business, according to a press release by the Department of Justice.

Arezo Aviation, based in Maharam Nagar in Delhi Cantt, is involved in providing air charter services, air ambulances, and the distribution of aircraft spare parts and related supplies. Currently held in an Oregon jail, Kaushik has opted not to seek release. US Magistrate Judge Stacie F Beckerman has ordered his continued detention, citing concerns that he poses a flight risk.

Court documents indicate Kaushik collaborated with an Austria-based associate, Markus Kaltenegger, to export aircraft parts without the necessary licenses. They reportedly provided false documentation claiming the components were intended for India.

Evidence found in Kaushik's iCloud account purportedly includes communications regarding procurement of export-controlled items. *— PTI*

California reports 1st case of bird flu in child

WASHINGTON DC, 23 NOV

Health officials on Friday confirmed bird flu in a California child — the first reported case in a US minor. A child in Alameda County, California, has recovered from mild symptoms and is receiving antiviral medication. The child attends day care and lives in Alameda County. The US bird flu outbreak has reached 55 cases this year, with 29 in California. An adult in Missouri was hospitalised with bird flu, a widespread disease affecting wild birds, and poultryin. California is the hub of the outbreak with 402 infected herds detected since August. Officials are investigating a child's infection and wild bird exposure. *—PTI*

Sri Lanka gets IMF approval for fourth tranche of $3B

COLOMBO, 23 NOV

.Sri Lanka's new NPP government has secured the fourth tranche of the nearly USD 3 billion bailout facility from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The IMF has approved a staff-level agreement to secure the fourth tranche, providing access to around USD 333 million. The previous administration, led by Ranil Wickremesinghe, entered the IMF bailout in March 2023 during the island's economic bankruptcy. The NPP and incumbent President Anura Kumara Dissanayake have assured the continuation of the programme, stating that the new government's commitment to the programme's objectives has enhanced confidence and ensured policy continuity. The IMF also noted that Sri Lanka's reform agenda was delivering results, with the economy expanding on average by 4 per cent in the four quarters ending June 2024.*—PTI*

Singaporean woman probed for terror activities

SINGAPORE, 23 NOV

A Singaporean woman is being investigated for alleged involvement in suspected terrorism-related activities on a Telegram channel that has more than 200,000 subscribers and provides information about the ongoing war in Gaza. The woman's messages about Gaza surfaced on 19 November, The Straits Times newspaper cited the Internal Security Department (ISD) as saying. Singapore authorities arrested a woman and confiscated electronic devices, but she was later released. The ISD cannot provide more details as investigations are ongoing. A 17-year-old Singaporean ISIS supporter was arrested just before planning to kill non-Muslims in Tampines. The first woman to be detained for radicalism was apprehended in 2017. The 22-year-old woman sought an ISIS supporter to marry and settle in Syria. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Storm dumps record rain in Northern California

SACRAMENTO, 23 NOV

A major storm has brought snow and record rain to California, causing small landslides and flooding some streets. Blizzard or winter storm warnings were in effect for areas spanning from the Northeast to central Appalachia. The storm on the West Coast arrived in the Pacific Northwest earlier this week, killing two people and knocking out power to hundreds of thousands, mostly in the Seattle area. Santa Rosa, California, saw its wettest three-day period on record with about 32 cm of rain falling by Friday evening. Highway 1 was closed due to flooding, while New York and New Jersey received rain from another storm. *—PTI*

WAR ESCALATES

Rescue workers and people search for victims at the site of an Israeli airstrike in Beirut, Lebanon, early Saturday **PHOTO: PTI**

11 killed in Israeli airstrikes on Beirut

BEIRUT, 23 NOV

Israeli airstrikes in central Beirut on Saturday killed at least 11 people and injured dozens more, as diplomats worked urgently to negotiate a ceasefire. Lebanon's civil defence indicated that the death toll could rise as emergency responders searched through the rubble for survivors. This marked the fourth strike on the Lebanese capital in less than a week.

The escalation follows US envoy Amos Hochstein's visit to the region, aiming to broker an end to over 13 months of hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah, which have intensified into a full-scale war over the past two months. According to Lebanon's health ministry, Israeli bombardments have resulted in more than 3,500 dead and over 15,000 wounded, displacing around 1.2 million—approximately a quarter of Lebanon's population.

The early morning strikes destroyed an eight-storey building, leaving a substantial crater. In the southern port city of Tyre, a drone strike killed one fisherman and injured another. Observers reported that the victims appeared to be young teenagers setting up their nets.

On the same day, Israeli forces continued to target Hezbollah positions in the southern suburbs of Beirut, claiming to have issued warnings to civilians before the strikes. Concurrently, strikes in Gaza resulted in at least six deaths, including children, as the conflict there has escalated to a death toll exceeding 44,000, according to local health officials.

The humanitarian situation in Gaza remains dire, with most of the population displaced and suffering from severe shortages of essential resources. *—PTI*

S KOREA WILL NOT ATTEND SADO MINES MEMORIAL EVENT IN JAPAN

SEOUL, 23 NOV

South Korea's government on Saturday said it will not attend a memorial service near Japan's Sado Island Gold Mines due to disagreements with Tokyo over the event, which stirred longstanding tensions over the abuse of Korean forced labourers at the site before the end of World War II.

The decision marked a rare display of friction between the countries since the 2022 inauguration of South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol. Yoon has prioritised improving relations with Japan following years of disputes over their bitter history and solidifying three-way security cooperation with US to counter North Korean threats, but has faced accusations at home that he was neglecting the suffering of Korean survivors. *—PTI*

Trump picks ex-Soros money manager to be Treasury Secy

WASHINGTON DC, 23 NOV

President-elect Donald Trump has announced a series of high-profile nominations for his upcoming administration, set to take office on 20 January, 2025. Scott Bessent, a noted international investor and CEO of Key Square Group, is tapped for Treasury Secretary. "Scott is widely respected as one of the world's foremost international investors," Trump remarked, highlighting his vision for a new economic era. Tesla CEO Elon Musk had previously weighed in, offering his thoughts on the matter. Musk publicly endorsed Howard Lutnick as a candidate who could bring about necessary change, contrasting Lutnick's approach with Bessent's more traditional stance.

Congresswoman Lori Chavez-DeRemer will lead the Labour Department, supported by both business and labour communities, while Dr Janette Nesheiwat is proposed to become the next Surgeon General, noted for her advocacy of preventive medicine and public health.

Alex Wong has been appointed as Principal Deputy National Security Advisor, with Dr Sebastian Gorka returning as Senior Director for Counterterrorism. Further appointments include Dr Dave Weldon for the CDC, Marty Makary as FDA Commissioner, and Scott Turner as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. Trump underscored the necessity for the CDC to regain public trust, stating that it must focus on disease prevention.

In a sudden turn, Congressman Matt Gaetz has withdrawn from consideration for Attorney General amid allegations of sexual misconduct. Trump subsequently nominated Pam Bondi, former Florida Attorney General, as his replacement. Gaetz, who had just been re-elected, announced he will not return to Congress, saying, "I do not intend to join the 119th Congress." *—PTI*

Donald Trump **PHOTO: PTI**

MMA FIGHTER MCGREGOR TO PAY $360K IN RAPE CASE

LONDON, 23 NOV

A woman who claimed mixed martial arts fighter Conor McGregor "brutally raped and battered" her in a Dublin hotel penthouse was awarded nearly USD 257,000 on Saturday by a civil court jury in Ireland.

Nikita Hand said the 9 December, 2018, assault after a night of partying left her heavily bruised and suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

McGregor testified that he never forced the woman to do anything against her will and said she fabricated the allegations after the two had consensual sex. His lawyer had called Hand a gold digger.

The fighter shook his head as the jury of eight women and four men found him liable for assault after deliberating about six hours in the High Court in Dublin. *—PTI*

Philippine VP threatens to kill President

MANILA, 23 NOV

Philippine Vice President Sara Duterte has made a shocking public declaration, claiming she has contracted an assassin to eliminate President Ferdinand Marcos Jr, his wife, and House Speaker Martin Romualdez if she herself is killed. Her comments, described as an "active threat," were not intended as a joke and have raised serious concerns about security.

Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin has referred the matter to an elite presidential guards unit for immediate action. The government statement noted the gravity of threats against the president, stating, "Any threat to the life of the president must always be taken seriously."

Duterte's outburst follows tensions with Marcos, her running mate in the 2022 elections, who she has accused of incompetence and corruption. The vice president's remarks came after her chief of staff, Zuleika Lopez, was detained by House members allied with Marcos, triggering Duterte's anger. Duterte stated, "I've given my order: If I die, don't stop until you've killed them," adding that she had discussed this plan with an unnamed individual. *—PTI*

37 killed in sectarian violence at Pak's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

PESHAWAR, 23 NOV

At least 37 people have been killed and over two dozen others injured in tribal sectarian violence in northwest Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province during the last 24 hours, police said on Saturday.

The clashes between Alizai and Bagan tribes in Kurram district, bordering Afghanistan, took place following Thursday's attack on a convoy of passenger vans near Parachinar in which 47 people were killed.

Top ranking officials from the administration and police have rushed to the area in a helicopter.

"At least 37 are dead as at now (but) the death toll is still rising," an official tasked with collecting details of the carnage told the media here.

More than 30 people are injured, he added.

The tribes are targeting each other with heavy and automatic weapons, police said.

Homes and shops have been damaged in the fighting and people from various villages have fled to safer locations.

All educational institutions in the district remained closed on Saturday, confirmed Muhammad Hayat Hassan, chairman of the Private Education Network.

Videos shared from the area showed at least six bodies of the attackers and some charred bodies of the victims. Police also said that there were reports of six women taken as captives but "due to limited connectivity, information and communication is scant to ascertain anything more."

Gunfire continued in Balishkhel, Khar Kali, Kunj Alizai and Maqbal through the day, police said, adding, currently there is intermittent firing from at least three areas in the district, while the Thall-Sada-Parachinar Highway remained closed from traffic towards Kohat district.

As officials struggled to reinforce peace in the volatile region, communication from the elders of both the tribal sects suggested further intensified attacks. *—PTI*

An injured victim of gunmen firing incident on passenger vehicles, in Kurram district of Pakistan **PHOTO: PTI**

36 DEAD

Hurricane Beryl: US struggles amid power loss

HOUSTON, 23 NOV

Residents of Houston have expressed their anguish following prolonged power outages caused by Hurricane Beryl this summer, particularly affecting those with disabilities. Kimberly Rubit, 63, worked tirelessly for ten days to provide care for her severely disabled daughter, Mary, 42, as they endured sweltering heat without air conditioning or electricity. Sadly, at least three dozen individuals died from heat-related illnesses during the outages.

An analysis by the Associated Press highlights that electric grids across the US have been increasingly vulnerable to severe weather, resulting in extended power outages. Diana Hernandez, a sociomedical sciences professor at Columbia University, emphasises that one in three US households continually faces the threat of disconnection or struggles with the aftermath of power loss, particularly impacting those with chronic health conditions.

As another harsh winter approaches, Texans remain apprehensive about potential rolling blackouts reminiscent of the devastating outages in 2021, which left millions without power and resulted in over 200 deaths. The local utility, CenterPoint Energy, has faced criticism for its response to the storm. Authorities have called for improved communication and preventative measures.

Texas lawmakers proposed measures include mandating emergency generator fuel to ensure the wellbeing of vulnerable residents during emergencies. *—PTI*

Texas lawmakers proposed measures include mandating emergency generator fuel **PHOTO: INSTAGRAM**

UN passes resolution on crimes against humanity

UNITED NATIONS, 23 NOV

A significant milestone was reached as a key UN General Assembly committee approved a resolution late Friday, initiating negotiations for the first-ever treaty aimed at preventing and punishing crimes against humanity. The resolution gained consensus after Russia withdrew controversial amendments that could have derailed the progress.

The approval by the assembly's legal committee, comprising all 193 member states, followed intense negotiations throughout the day. Amidst loud applause, the committee's chairman confirmed the resolution's passage, which is expected to receive final approval from the General Assembly on 4 December.

Richard Dicker, Senior Legal Adviser at Human Rights Watch, hailed the resolution as "an historic achievement," emphasizing its importance in addressing impunity for atrocities committed in regions like Ethiopia, Sudan, Ukraine, southern Israel, Gaza, and Myanmar.

The International Criminal Court (ICC), tasked with penalising war crimes and genocide, does not have jurisdiction over nearly 70 countries. Advocates for the new treaty argue this initiative will fill a crucial gap within international law.

Gambia's Counselor Amadou Jaiteh described the resolution's approval as a "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity" to prioritise victims' voices. *—PTI*

Binny Bansal steps down from board of PhonePe

NEW DELHI, 23 NOV

Flipkart's co-founder Binny Bansal has stepped down from the board of PhonePe, the fintech company said on Friday. PhonePe also announced the appointment of Manish Sabharwal as an Independent Director and Chair of its Audit Committee. In this role, Sabharwal will be instrumental in upholding the integrity and effectiveness of PhonePe's financial reporting, internal controls, and risk management practices, he company said in a release. Sabharwal is Vice-Chairman of Teamlease Services, India's largest staffing and human capital firm. Bansal played an instrumental role in Flipkart's acquisition of PhonePe way back in 2016 and had been on its board since then (the payments firm separated from Flipkart in 2022).—*PTI*

Colliers: Housing construction costs surge 39% in 4 yrs

NEW DELHI, 23 NOV

The average cost of construction for housing projects in big cities has increased by 39 per cent in the last four years to Rs 2,780 per sq ft, with building materials and labour becoming expensive, according to Colliers India. Real estate consultant Colliers India data shows that the average construction cost for premium housing projects stood at Rs 2,000 per square feet in October 2020. The construction cost rose to Rs 2,200 per square feet in October 2021, Rs 2,300 per sq ft in October 2022, Rs 2,500 per sq ft in October 2023 and Rs 2,780 per square feet in October 2024. Average cement prices have seen a steep decline of 15 per cent, while average steel prices have witnessed a marginal 1 per cent decrease over the last 12 months —*PTI*

ASEAN-India trade talks conclude in Delhi

NEW DELHI, 23 NOV

The 6th meeting of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) Joint Committee concluded in New Delhi, with leaders urging an expedited review process to conclude negotiations by 2025. According to an official statement by Ministry of Commerce & Industry, the meeting brought together representatives from India and all 10 ASEAN member states: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. The meeting was held from 15-22 November at Vanijya Bhawan in Delhi. The ministry also stated that there are 8 Sub-Committees under the AITIGA Joint Committee for negotiations on market access, rules of origin, technical standards, customs procedures, trade remedies, and legal frameworks. The review of the AITIGA is expected to further boost trade sustainably, fostering deeper economic ties. The next meeting of AITIGA is in February 2025 in Jakarta, Indonesia. —*ANI*

CESC subsidiary secures ₹871cr C'garh power deal

KOLKATA, 23 NOV

After a nearly three-year wait because of legal wrangles, Eminent Electricity Distribution Ltd, a subsidiary of CESC Ltd, has received the Letter of Intent (LOI) for acquiring 100 per cent equity in a company responsible for electricity distribution and retail supply in Chandigarh. CESC, part of the RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group, had emerged as the highest bidder for the Rs 871-crore deal, securing the tender for the Chandigarh distribution business in 2021. However, the privatisation bid was challenged by trade unions. The transaction, valued at Rs 871 crore, is subject to conditions outlined in the LOI and is expected to be completed within 30 days, the company said. The financial bidding process saw CESC outbidding competitors such as Torrent Power, NTPC Ltd, and ReNew Power. —*PTI*

US SEC summons Adani, nephew Sagar in bribery case

SEC seeks reply in alleged $265M bribery case within 21 days

NEW YORK, 23 NOV

Adani group founder and chairman Gautam Adani and his nephew Sagar have been summoned to explain their stand on the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) allegation of paying USD 265 million (Rs 2,200 crore) in bribes to secure lucrative solar power contracts.

Summons have been sent to Adani's Shantivan Farm residence in Ahmedabad and his nephew Sagar's Bodakdev residence in the same city for a reply to SEC within 21 days.

"Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it)...you must serve on the plaintiff (SEC) an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure," said a 21 November notice sent through the New York Eastern District Court.

Gautam Adani, 62, and seven other defendants, including his nephew Sagar, who is a director at the group's renewable energy unit Adani Green Energy Ltd, allegedly agreed to pay about USD 265 million in bribes to Indian government officials between approximately 2020 and 2024 to obtain lucrative solar energy supply contracts on terms that expected to yield USD 2 billion of profit over 20 years, according to an indictment unsealed in a New York court on Wednesday.

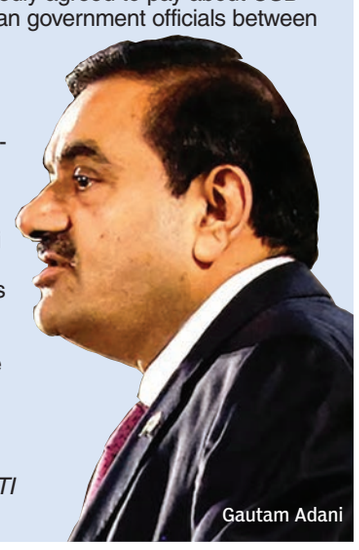
Separate from the indictment brought by the US Department of Justice, the US SEC has also charged the two and Cyril Cabanes, an executive of Azure Power Global, for "conduct arising out of a massive bribery scheme".

Prosecutors said the investigation started in 2022 and found the inquiry obstructed. —*PTI*

Sagar Adani

None of Adani portfolio cos subject to any legal case: Group CFO

None of Adani group portfolio companies, comprising 11 listed firms, have been accused of any wrongdoing, conglomerate's CFO Jugeshinder Robbie Singh said on founder and chairman Gautam Adani's indictment on bribery charges in the US. In a post on X, Singh said the group would make a detailed comment on the US indictment once it gets counsel approvals. Adani and seven other defendants, including his nephew Sagar Adani, allegedly agreed to pay about USD 265 million in bribes to Indian government officials between approximately 2020 and 2024 to obtain lucrative solar energy supply contracts on terms that were expected to yield USD 2 billion of profit over 20 years, according to an indictment unsealed in a New York court on Wednesday. Adani Group, he said, has a portfolio of 11 public companies and "none are subject to indictment". Adani Family has 11 listed entities on the Indian stock exchanges - flagship incubator Adani Enterprises Ltd, Adani Power Ltd, Adani Ports & SEZ, and others. —*PTI*



Gautam Adani

AMID TESLA & SPACEX BOOST

Richest man in history: Musk's net worth now $334.3B

CALIFORNIA, 23 NOV

Elon Musk, the CEO of Tesla and SpaceX, has made headlines recently for experiencing an extraordinary surge in his net worth.

Over a span of just 20 days, Musk's wealth skyrocketed by $70 billion, a jump so substantial that it now exceeds the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Myanmar. This incredible rise comes amid increasing investor confidence and significant market movements, particularly driven by Tesla's stock performance and SpaceX's growing success in the space industry.

Tesla's stock has surged 40 per cent since Election Day, climbing 3.8 per cent on Friday alone to close at $352.56 – its highest price in over three years. This added $7 billion to Musk's fortune, pushing his net worth past the previous high of $320.3 billion – set during Tesla's pandemic-era surge in November 2021.

Musk's remarkable financial ascent highlights the growing influence of tech entrepreneurs in global wealth rankings. His net worth surge in such a short time underscores the volatility and unpredictability of the market, especially for major players in tech and innovation sectors.

This dramatic jump in Musk's wealth is also notable because it outpaces the GDP of some countries.

For comparison, Myanmar, a Southeast Asian nation with a population of over 50 million people, has an estimated GDP of about $70 billion. Musk's recent wealth spike not only emphasizes his position at the top of the global financial landscape but also draws attention to the immense economic power that tech moguls can wield in today's interconnected world economy. —*Agencies*

Elon Musk PHOTO: PTI

SAYS FINANCE MINISTER

India should be branded as 'responsible capitalist'

BENGALURU, 23 NOV

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has called for branding India as a "Responsible Capitalist" nation, emphasizing the country's deep understanding of the limitations of capitalism.

Speaking at the 8th India Ideas Conclave organized by India Foundation, Sitharaman highlighted India's traditional values of sustainable living and responsible consumption.

She said "We thought of it as our responsibility to use as per our need & not as per our greed. We must understand that capitalism has its limitations & we need to brand India as a 'Responsible Capitalist' country".

She noted that India's adoption of principles such as a circular economy and reuse was not driven by global trends but by necessity and responsibility.

"We didn't follow the circular economy and principle of reuse because we were an impoverished nation. We thought of it as our responsibility to use as per our need and not as per our greed," Sitharaman said in a social media post.

Sitharaman further stressed the importance of establishing global standards in various sectors. She proposed creating a "Bharat FDA" modeled on the lines of the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to ensure top-notch standards in food and drug safety. —*ANI*

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman PHOTO: PTI

Gold demand soars amid AI revolution

NEW DELHI, 23 NOV

As AI systems become increasingly integral to devices such as smartphones, autonomous vehicles, and data centres, the use of gold has surged due to its unparalleled properties, according to the World Gold Council report.

Gold demand in the electronics sector peaked in 2010 at 328 tons but gradually declined to 249 tons by 2023. Recent quarters, however, have shown a modest recovery, driven in part by the expansion of AI-enabled devices.

As manufacturers strive to meet the technological demands of AI, gold's unique properties ensure its continued relevance in high-performance electronic applications.

Gold's exceptional electrical conductivity and resistance to corrosion make it indispensable in advanced hardware components, ensuring high-speed data processing, minimal energy loss, and long-lasting performance.

The healthcare and financial sectors, among others, are heavily investing in AI to boost innovation and efficiency, further amplifying gold's demand.

As per the WGC report, the rising cost of gold, which recently surpassed Rs 72,056 per 10 grams (USD 2,700 per ounce), poses significant challenges for manufacturers.

Beyond AI, gold's versatility underpins its significance in other industries. In healthcare, it is used in therapeutic devices and as a key component in diagnostics and experimental drug delivery systems.

In aerospace, gold protects sensitive satellite and spacecraft components from extreme temperatures and radiation. Additionally, in clean energy technologies, gold serves as a chemical catalyst in processes like hydrogen production and carbon dioxide transformation. —*ANI*

The rising cost of gold poses challenges for manufacturers PHOTO: PTI

- As manufacturers strive to meet the technological demands of AI, gold's unique properties ensure its continued relevance in electronic applications

Among consumer segments, lower-income and middle-income groups bore the brunt of inflationary pressures PHOTO: ANI

Rural demand for staples rebound, urban growth slows

NEW DELHI, 23 NOV

In the second quarter of FY25 (2QFY25), consumer staples exhibited contrasting demand trends with rural and semi-urban markets, including Tier-3 and Tier-4 cities, showed a recovery in demand trends, urban centres, metros, and Tier-1 cities experienced a slowdown, according to the systematix institutional equities report.

This divergence reflects the varied impact of inflation and income dynamics on consumer spending patterns. The slowdown in urban demand was particularly pronounced in specific categories, channels, and consumer segments.

Soaps, tea, juices, noodles, and paints struggled due to subdued demand, with consumer wallets hit by rising inflation and intense competition.

Conversely, categories like oral care, detergents, coffee, chocolates, biscuits, aerated drinks, spices, edible oils, and cigarettes performed relatively well, demonstrating resilience despite challenging conditions.

However, modern trade and e-commerce channels displayed robust double-digit growth, prompting businesses to rebalance inventory from GT to these rapidly growing platforms.

Among consumer segments, lower-income and middle-income groups bore the brunt of inflationary pressures, with non-salaried households hit hardest by rising food prices and stagnant income growth.

Despite price hikes, the lag in fully absorbing raw material inflation and continued operating deleverage is expected to sustain margin challenges into the third quarter of FY25. —*ANI*

- Conversely, categories like oral care, detergents, coffee, chocolates, biscuits, aerated drinks, spices, edible oils, and cigarettes performed relatively well, demonstrating resilience

TEPA to enhance 99.6% export access, to attract $100B

NEW DELHI, 23 NOV

The Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA), signed in March 2024 between India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries, is poised to unlock new opportunities for Indian exports and drive investments worth USD 100 billion.

According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the agreement, designed to enhance bilateral trade and investment, covers a wide spectrum of goods, services, and sectors, ensuring a mutually beneficial partnership.

Sunil Barthwal, Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, led a high-level delegation to Norway on 22 November, to further advance the objectives of TEPA.

PHOTO: PTI

His visit aimed to secure early implementation of the USD 100 billion investment commitment and boost market access for Indian goods and services across EFTA member countries--Norway, Switzerland, Iceland, and Liechtenstein.

The agreement is also set to stimulate India's service exports in sectors such as IT, business, education, audio-visual, and cultural services. Enhanced access is provided through digital delivery (Mode 1), commercial presence (Mode 3), and temporary mobility of key personnel (Mode 4).

TEPA is expected to bolster domestic manufacturing and support key initiatives like Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat. The agreement encourages investments in infrastructure, manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, food processing, banking, and financial services.

It also fosters job creation for India's youth, along with enhanced vocational and technical training opportunities over the next 15 years. —*ANI*

93% of Indian execs expect cyber budget rise

NEW DELHI, 23 NOV

Indian organisations are significantly ramping up their cybersecurity investments amid rising digital threats, according to PwC report.

93 per cent of Indian executives plan to increase their cybersecurity budgets in 2025, with 17 per cent expecting increments of 15 per cent or more, a 1 per cent rise from last year.

This underscores the critical importance of cybersecurity, which 61 per cent of executives identified as their top risk mitigation priority, surpassing digital risks (60 per cent), inflation (48 per cent), and environmental risks (30 per cent). —*ANI*

MAJORITY POST 2014

India invests $14T since Independence: Report

NEW DELHI, 23 NOV

India's economic growth story has witnessed a remarkable surge in investment spending, with over half of the USD 14 trillion invested since Independence being spent in the last decade alone, according to a report by Motilal Oswal.

The report highlighted that USD 8 trillion was poured into the economy in the past 10 years, underlining the country's rapid expansion and modernization.

"The country has spent USD 14 trillion on investments since independence, with USD 8 trillion spent in the last decade alone" said the report.

The report also noted that this unprecedented acceleration is expected to continue, with projections indicating that India will invest an additional USD 8 trillion in just the next five years.

It also added that the investment-to-GDP ratio, which had stagnated since 2011, is now witnessing a recovery. This revival is attributed to post-COVID recovery measures and increased government expenditure on infrastructure and developmental projects.

The growing size of India's annual investments reflects a shift towards sustained economic growth and enhanced global competitiveness.

The report also sheds light on the resilience of India's stock markets over the past three decades. It stated that out of 33 years, markets ended with positive returns in 26 years, despite experiencing interim declines. Temporary drawdowns of 10-20 per cent have become an almost annual phenomenon, but long-term trends reveal consistent growth.

India's robust investment momentum, coupled with its resilient stock market, paints a promising picture for the country's economic future. —*ANI*

India's robust investment momentum, coupled with its resilient stock market, paints a promising picture for country's economic future PHOTO: X

Tilak Varma makes record-setting hundred; Shreyas smashes ton

Left-hander made 151 off just 67 balls with 14 fours and 10 sixes

MUMBAI, 31 OCT

Tilak Varma became the first batter ever to notch three successive hundreds in T20s, while Shreyas Iyer underlined his credentials with a smooth century ahead of the IPL mega auction, as the two Indian batters hogged the limelight in the first round of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy on Saturday. In a Group A match, Tilak, who made hundreds recently against South Africa at Centurion and Johannesburg, added one more three-figure knock to the list against Meghalaya in Rajkot.

The left-hander made 151 off just 67 balls with 14 fours and 10 sixes to guide Hyderabad to 248 for four in 20 overs. In the process, he also became the first Indian male cricketer to score a 150-plus score in T20s.

India woman batter Kiran Navigere made a 162 for Nagaland against Arunachal Pradesh in the senior Women's T20 Trophy in 2022. Opener Tanmay Agarwal supported his skipper Tilak with a 55 off 23 balls.

Anikethreddy and Tanay Thyagarajan shared seven wickets among them as Hyderabad bundled out their rivals for 69 to celebrate a massive 179-run victory. Shreyas' hundred led Mumbai to 250 for four, but Goa made a spirited chase before ending up at 224 for eight, going down by 26 runs. Suyash Prabhudesai was their top-scorer with 52 off 36 balls.

Tilak Varma became the first batter ever to notch three successive hundreds in T20s

Brief scores

Hyderabad 248/4; 20 overs (Tilak Verma 151, Tanmay Agarwal 55) beat Meghalaya: 69; 15.1 overs(G Anikethreddy 4/11, Tanay Thyagarajan 3/15) by 179 runs. Mumbai 250/4; 20 overs (Shreyas Iyer 130 not out) beat Goa 224/8; 20 overs (Suyash Prabhudesai 52, Vikash Singh 47 not out; Suyansh Shedge 2/18) by 26 runs. —*PTI*

IPL 2025 Auction: Rishabh Pant expected to exceed ₹ 25 crore

The "X-factor" that Rishabh Pant offers will trigger a bidding war for him in Sunday's IPL mega auction in Jeddah and the wicketkeeper batter could smash the Rs 25 crore barrier, reckoned former India batter Suresh Raina. Kolkata Knight Riders shelled out Rs 24.75 crore to acquire the services of Australian pacer Mitchell Starc ahead of IPL 2024, the highest in the tournament's history so far, and Raina felt it could be broken this time. "More than his batting and keeping, he's a great character to have in the team when he is a captain. Any owner or coach would not like to miss his X-factor," Raina, IPL Expert, JioStar, told PTI. "I think he will go for more than that. Punjab, Delhi, KKR, and RCB have the money. So, when he comes to the auction, expect him to go 4-5 crores higher than Rs 25 crore," said Raina, the first player to breach the 5000-run mark in IPL history. Highlighting Pant's on-field energy and rapport with players, Raina, a four-time IPL winner with Chennai Super Kings, said: "He has that strength, the bonding he has with players, and everyone wants to play under him, which makes him special." —*PTI*

Rishabh Pant PHOTO: PTI

CLEEN SWEEP

Netherlands beat Germany to reach first Davis Cup final

MALAGA, 23 NOV

The last man to face and beat Rafael Nadal in professional tennis, 80th-ranked Botic van de Zandschulp, converted his 10th match point Friday to finally close out a 6-4, 6-7 (12), 6-3 victory over Daniel Altmaier and help the Netherlands reach its first Davis Cup final by sweeping Germany.

Tallon Griekspoor, who is ranked 40th, sealed the 2-0 win for the Dutch in the best-of-three-match semifinal by hitting 25 aces and coming back to defeat Jan-Lennard Struff 6-7 (4), 7-5, 6-4. When it ended, appropriately, on an ace, Griekspoor shut his eyes, dropped to his knees, and spread his arms wide.

"We have been talking about this for two, three years," Griekspoor said. "We believed in ourselves so much. We always felt like this was possible. To do it now feels unbelievable."

The other semifinal is Saturday, with No. 1-ranked Jannik Sinner and defending champion Italy taking on Australia. The championship will be decided on Sunday.

"We don't have that top 5 player. We don't have that top 10 player. We don't have that top 15 players," Dutch captain Paul Harhuuis said. "But it's a team effort. ... So proud of these guys."

In Friday's opener, van de Zandschulp was up a set and just a point away from leading 5-2 in the second when Altmaier began playing more aggressively and interacting more with the German fans, yelling and throwing uppercuts or raising his arms after key points. In the tiebreaker, Altmaier managed to save five match points before converting his fourth set point to extend the contest. But van de Zandschulp who upset four-time Grand Slam champion Carlos Alcaraz at the U.S. Open —*PTI*

Tallon Griekspoor

PHOTO: X

Tahlia to lead Australia WODI side against India

SYDNEY, 23 NOV

Veteran all-rounder Tahlia McGrath was on Saturday named to lead the 13-member Australian women's side against India in regular skipper Alyssa Healy's absence in the three-match ODI series next month. The 34-year-old Alyssa has been troubled by a knee injury, which had ruled her out during the fag end of the Women's Big Bash League and also forced her to skip the ODI series against India, beginning in Brisbane on 5 December. The second and third ODIs will be played on December 8 and 11 at Brisbane and Perth, respectively.—*PTI*

Angel rides a hot putter to 2-shot lead in LPGA finale

NAPLES, 23 NOV

Angel Yin rammed in a 30-foot par putt on her opening hole, setting the tone for a day of big putts and 3-under 69 that gave her a two-shot lead Friday in the CME Group Tour Championship and the chase for the $4 million prize. Very clear in her rear-view mirror was Nelly Korda. Korda, coming off her seventh win of the season last week, opened with a 72 and was eight shots behind. She found a simple swing through after the round and was back to her old self with a 66 that cut the deficit in half with 36 holes left to play.—*PTI*

Louis, Athanaze miss out on centuries for WI

NORTH SOUND, 23 NOV

Mikyle Louis and Alick Athanaze fell agonizingly short of maiden centuries as the West Indies rallied from 25-2 to reach 250-5 against Bangladesh on the first day Friday of the first test. Louis was out for 97 and Athanaze on 90 after sharing a dogged 140-run partnership for the fourth wicket. At stumps, Justin Greaves was 11 not out and Joshua Da Silva was 14 not out. Louis shared a 59-run partnership for the third wicket with Kavem Hodge (25) which steadied the West Indies innings after captain Kraigg Brathwaite (4) and Keacy Carty (0) fell early to the bowling of Taskin. Louis was the senior partner for most of the fourth-wicket stand.—*PTI*

1ST TEST BGT

Jaiswal and Rahul shine bright as India gain complete control

PERTH, 23 NOV

Yashasvi Jaiswal combined game awareness with perfect shot selection while KL Rahul remained technically unflappable in an unbroken opening stand of 172 as India looked set to bat Australia out of the match with an overall lead of 218 runs on the second day of the opening Test here.

After skipper Jasprit Bumrah's game-changing 11th five-wicket haul decimated Australia for 104, young Jaiswal (90 batting, 193 balls) and seasoned Rahul (62 batting, 154 balls) decided to grind it out with some old-fashioned Test match batting by waiting for the loose deliveries and respecting good fast bowling.

The Indians showed their compact defense by scoring 88 runs in 31 overs during the post-tea session as Jaiswal inched towards a coveted ton on his maiden outing on Australian soil. With enough time at their disposal and signs of cracks appearing on the surface, this is going to be India's Test match to lose.

The way Rahul wore down the Australian attack was a sight to behold. There was no chatter from the slip cordon and at one point, the stitches of the Kookaburra came out.

The live grass died by the second afternoon and the seam movement also went out of the equation making batting easier.

But no one can take away any credit from the two who were hardly troubled except for a mix-up that could have led to Rahul's run-out.

Jaiswal also showed that he had learned his lessons from the first innings and curbed his urge to drive on the up initially, which was the best part about his batting.

India 150 and 172 for 0 (Jaiswal 90*, Rahul 62*) lead Australia 104 (Bumrah 5-30, Rana 3-48) by 218 runs. —*PTI*

India's Yashasvi Jaiswal, left, and teammate KL Rahul leave the field at the end of play on the second day of the first cricket test between Australia and India in Perth PHOTO: PTI

Harry Kane PHOTO: X

Harry Kane breaks Erling Haaland's goalscoring record

NEW DELHI, 6 JUNE

Harry Kane became the fastest player to score 50 Bundesliga goals as Bayern Munich beat Augsburg 3-0 on Friday.

The 31-year-old striker netted all three of Bayern's goals as the club continued its impressive start to the Bundesliga season.Kane has now scored 50 goals in 43 games in the German top division, beating Erling Haaland's record of 50 goals in 50 games when he was starring for Borussia Dortmund.

After a goalless opening 45 minutes, the England striker found the back of the net three times following the halftime break. Kane scored twice from the penalty spot before completing his hat-trick with an innovative finish."We said at halftime we should just keep going and create chances," Kane said following the game, per Reuters. "Thankfully we got the penalty and from there the game opened up." —*PTI*

Russell takes pole with Verstappen ahead of Norris

TURIN, 23 NOV

Russell snuck ahead of Sainz by just 0.098 seconds while Alpine's Pierre Gasly pulled off a major shock by taking third place.

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc was fourth after a messy session, while Red Bull's Max Verstappen took fifth, ahead of his title rival Lando Norris of McLaren. Norris needs to finish the race ahead of Verstappen to take the title fight to the next race in Qatar. And both McLaren drivers faded. Norris had set more or less the same time as Verstappen on his first run but was 0.211secs off his rival when it mattered.

Hamilton had topped the second session of qualifying but when it came to pushing to the limit and finding the last little bit of time, he fell short, as has become something of a trend this year., Mercedes have looked strong all weekend, Hamilton topping both Friday practice sessions and Russell Saturday's, and that form continued through into qualifying.

Russell hit the wall on his first run and needed a change of front wing, but he stayed collected and demanded to be sent out last to ensure he got the best of the track conditions. —*PTI*

ITF Kalaburagi Open: Sultanov defeats Javia

KALABURAGI, 23 NOV

Seventh-seeded Indian Dev Javia fought hard but could not prevent top seed Khumoyun Sultanov from entering the ITF Kalaburagi Open final with a straight-set win here on Saturday.

The Uzbek ranked over 450 places above the Indian, came good when it mattered to seal a hard-fought 7-6 (5), 6-2 win and set up a showdown with Russia's second seed Bogdan Bobrov.

Bobrov had an easier time in the other semifinal against an error-prone American Nick Chappell, winning 6-3, 6-0.

Agafonov-Bobrov bag doubles title

Top-seeded Russians Egor Agafonov and Bobrov defeated the Indo-American combine of Nitin Kumar Sinha and Nick Chappell 7-5, 6-2 in the doubles title clash. The Russians warded off a late fightback from the rivals in the first set and then sealed the second set comfortably. —*PTI*

CAMERON SMITH MOVES INTO SHARE OF 2ND-ROUND LEAD

BRISBANE, 23 NOV

Former British Open champion Cameron Smith birdied three of his first four holes Saturday for a 6-under 65. He was tied for the second-round lead at the rain-shortened Australian PGA Championship at Royal Queensland.

Heavy rain showers and an unplayable course on Friday forced the second round to be abandoned. They made the joint Australasian PGA and European Tour event a 54-hole tournament scheduled to end Sunday. Smith, the 2022 British Open winner at St. Andrews, had a 36-hole total of 10-under 132, level with first-round leader Elvis Smylie, who shot 67. Smylie is the son of former Australian tennis pro, Liz Smylie Smith's LIV tour mate and fellow Australian Marc Leishman, who shot 66, was in third place and a stroke behind the leading pair. Jason Day, making his first appearance back home in Australia in seven years shot 69 and was four strokes behind Smith and Smylie. Min Woo Lee, who won last year's tournament at Royal Queensland, had a 73 and cut the number at 2-under, eight strokes behind. Lucas Herbert, an Australian who also plays on the LIV Tour, shot 66, and 2004 US Open champion Geoff Ogilvy had a 68. They were at 5-under and five strokes behind. —*PTI*

Cameron Smith PHOTO: X

Chelsea's Nicolas Jackson celebrates after winning 1 - 2 with team-mate Enzo Fernandez PHOTO: X / @CHELSEAFC

PL clubs approve major rule change, MC vote against it

MADRID, 23 NOV

Premier League clubs have voted to approve the changes to the league's associated party transactions (APT) at a meeting held in Central London, where representatives of all 20 teams were present, on Friday.

The proposed changes came into play after an independent tribunal found some aspects of the APT rules to be unlawful following Manchester City's lawsuit. "At a Premier League Shareholders' meeting today, clubs approved changes to the League's Associated Party Transaction (APT) rules. The amendments to the rules address the findings of an Arbitration Tribunal following a legal challenge by Manchester City to the APT system earlier this year. "The Premier League has conducted a detailed consultation with clubs - informed by multiple opinions from expert, independent Leading Counsel - to draft rule changes that address amendments required to the system," read the statement released by the Premier League. "This relates to integrating the assessment of Shareholder loans, the removal of some of the amendments made to APT rules earlier this year. —*PTI*

DING CAN BOUNCE BACK

Gukesh overwhelming favourite

SINGAPORE, 23 NOV

Indian chess prodigy D Gukesh has more than a 50 percent chance of becoming the youngest-ever world champion, feels the International Federation (FIDE) CEO Emil Sutovsky.

The 18-year-old Indian will take on defending champion Ding Liren in the 14-round World Chess Championship clash beginning on Monday.

"He's (Gukesh) almost there and enters the match as favorite... It's possible," Sutovsky told FIDE Chess on YouTube.

"His chances are not less than 50 percent... I would say higher. So, yes, he seems to be very much focused on that. "It is possible. But, I don't think Ding is ready to accept it," added Sutovsky, who reached a peak ranking of world No. 17, in 2004.

Liren Ding and D Gukesh

PHOTO: X

One reason for Gukesh being the favorite is Ding's lackluster performance this year, while the Indian recently led his team to a historic gold medal at the Chess Olympiad in Budapest. However, Sutovsky cautioned against underestimating Ding, noting the Chinese Grandmaster's potential to recover his form. "I think it would be very exciting, not because I'm officially here, but as a fan. I think Ding, who has had an unimpressive year, will recover. —*PTI*

- Indian chess prodigy D Gukesh has more than a 50 percent chance of becoming the youngest-ever world champion, feels the International Federation (FIDE) CEO Emil Sutovsky